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No. 16

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. TENNEY).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 25, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CLAUDIA TENNEY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

REMEMBERING LIN BREHMER, A CHICAGO TREASURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, almost 11 years ago today, I spoke on the anniversary of two Chicago treasures: Radio station WXRT and one of its beloved hosts, Lin Brehmer.

This weekend, we lost Lin at the age of 68 after a long battle with cancer. Lin was a Chicago icon, a poet, a Renaissance man, and a friend. For my colleagues who have not lived in Chicago, let me explain.

In the movie, "Almost Famous," there is a scene where the protagonist's oldest sister has left her record collection, and she tells him, "Look under your bed. It will set you free." That is what XRT did for us in Chicago and that is what Lin did for me and so many Chicagoans.

Before XRT, AM radio, a dry, repetitive desert was our only option for music. After XRT, we were transformed. It became a 24-hour station in 1976, demonstrating our city's unique commitment to independent thinking and an unbridled celebration of art and music.

Like many others, XRT linked us to a new world. XRT encouraged me to leave my sterile environment and travel to the Earl of Old Town to see Steve Goodman and my first concert at the Aragon Ballroom to see Mott the Hoople and the New York Dolls, not to mention other famous haunts like the Metro, the Vic, Checkerboard Lounge, to see greats like Iggy Pop, David Bowie, Muddy Waters, Frank Zappa, Roxy Music, and so many others.

When Lin became the music director at WXRT in 1984, he helped introduce us to new music, new genres, and new emotions. Today, when so much of music is driven by algorithms and data, it can be difficult to imagine a time when a station could often be steered by a single man's eclectic tastes, but that is what Lin did. He played what he wanted to hear, and somehow, he always knew what the city needed to hear.

He opened my eyes to the true power of music. He taught me that music can show you new worlds, can help you understand new perspectives. It can often soothe during difficult times and inspire you to explore what you never considered exploring before.

Lin Brehmer was my friend, but I recognize that I am far from the only one who could claim that coveted title. He was born a New Yorker and began

his radio career filling in at his university's student-run station during the summer.

The first song he ever performed was The Beatles' "Within You Without You." Later, he would explain that he chose it because "I have always felt that life flows within you, but most of all without you."

At Albany's WQBK-FM, he became known as the "Reverend of Rock 'n' Roll" for his penchant for reciting poetry during song introductions. Lin came to Chicago in 1984 to become the music director, and his taste left an indelible mark on the station and on the entire city.

He hosted the morning drive for more than 30 years talking to thousands of Chicagoans over the years on their daily commutes. He loved the Cubs, Chicago's music, theater, and dining, and he shared those loves with us.

From Lin, we learned about the best restaurants in the city. We shared in the Cubs' wins and often losses, and gained new perspectives from his essays in "Lin's Bin," a rare combination of nostalgia, humor, empathy, kindness, and spirituality.

I was honored to have lunch with Lin at some of Chicago's most iconic locales like Manny's and Ann Sather's, and to have spent a memorable Cubs' game at his side.

As he himself described, he regularly went out in his "eating pants," an outfit with enough give to accommodate another Chicago meal at places like the Wiener's Circle.

Last July, he shared with his listeners that he had been diagnosed with prostate cancer and began a leave of absence to undergo treatment. This November, I know I wasn't the only Chicagoan who was delighted when he briefly returned to the airwaves.

Now, during his time at WXRT, he was named music director of the year three times and was voted the music director of the decade by readers of the

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Hard Report. He was so much more than a radio host. He was Chicago's best friend in the whole world.

When something big happened, Chicago would turn to Lin for his take on the events. Whether celebration or tragedy, he knew what to say. Now in the wake of his loss, we turn to the dial wanting.

He was married to his college sweetheart, Sara, and they shared a son, Wilson. They were both by his side in his final moments. My thoughts and deepest condolences are with his family and with all Chicagoans as we mourn his loss.

In closing, as Lin always reminded us, never take anything for granted. It is great to be alive.

FOOD SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. McCORMICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. McCORMICK. Madam Speaker, today I address something that is near and dear to everyone's heart, and that is food security.

One of my biggest concerns right now, as I have become educated on the things that concern Americans, is the fact that all around the world right now, we are facing food shortages. A lot of this is created by our own actions.

If you look in Ukraine right now, you have food rotting in bins because of a war. The breadbasket of Europe is not going to be producing crops in the next year because of the war.

In China, you have massive pollution which is contaminating their agricultural output.

Meanwhile, you have countries like India that are reliant on foreign fertilizer that are going to be choked off because of the environmental movement.

You have the Netherlands and Germany reducing their nitrates in their fertilizers, which they haven't done since World War I, which created a famine back then.

In the United States, we have a third of our chickens and our eggs that are being reduced because of Avian Flu.

Meanwhile, we are allowing Chinese nationals and billionaires to buy up millions of acres of farmland. This is concerning for many reasons. If we thought that the pandemic was a reason for government to overreach, if we thought that that was going to be a crisis, imagine what it would be like if we ran out of food, if we have food shortages.

When you realize that we had people panicking over toilet paper, imagine what they will do when they panic when our cupboards are bare. This could be a worldwide reason for war.

It is also another reason for government to increase their control. There is always a reason for people to turn to the government to solve the problems that the government created; and that

is my main concern today, to be something proactive rather than reactive.

We see it coming. We can see that any foreign national country could come up with a virus to contaminate our livestock or even our crops; and yet, we are doing nothing to proactively make sure that Chinese nationals can't buy farmland in America; that billionaires can't buy millions of acres of farmland and artificially increase prices during a food shortage.

We, as Congress, need to be proactive. We need to reach out and make sure we are doing things to strategically protect our food resources, both here and abroad.

We need to fight back this idea that the environmental movement shouldn't use fertilizer, shouldn't produce agriculture; shouldn't be having foresight to protect human life over all else.

Madam Speaker, I propose that Congress be realistic in the way we allow people to purchase. I am all for a free market. I am all for allowing people to sell to who they want to; but always with the idea that America still comes first, and Americans are protected in the process; that we don't turn to the government to solve the problem that we are creating, and that we don't allow foreign nationals to affect our food supply because this would be catastrophic, both here and abroad, and would lead to wars, as we have seen over and over through the history of this world.

ONWARD ABRAMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to support the delivery of Abrams tanks to our European allies, including Ukraine. Let us fulfill any backup supply to assure NATO can check aggression by Russia anywhere on that continent.

Liberty for Ukraine needs no Neville Chamberlain moments. Delivering Abrams tanks will help Ukraine push toward victory sooner rather than later. Liberty's mission must be victory.

Russia's cruel and unprovoked war on Ukraine has produced a nation soaked in blood from one end to the other. Putin views weakness and appeasement as a recipe for failure.

Across Ohio, which I am privileged to represent, and the Great Lakes region, our fellow citizens and families have survived and often, too often, have fled oppression in central Europe at the hands of a predatory Russia.

We know the price of liberty. Our patriotic men and women in the United Auto Workers proudly manufacture the Abrams tank in Lima, Ohio. They guard liberty every day.

Our workers build the finest equipment in the world, so critical to victory. Americans know what brave Ukrainians are fighting for and against.

Hasn't enough innocent blood been spilled already?

Onward Abrams.

FAIRFAX FAILURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I was appalled to learn that multiple schools in Fairfax County, Virginia, withheld National Merit Scholarship commendation award letters from hundreds of students. This is a problem.

When political ideology stands in the way of students' success, it is a problem. When the pursuit of so-called equity starts harming students, it is a problem. When school bureaucrats hold students back to hide their own failures, it is a problem.

The education bureaucracy failed these students. These students deserve to be rewarded for their hard work, and these students deserve an education system that will lift them up, not try to keep them down.

These school administrators were trusted with the future of these students, and they broke that trust. Shame on them.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, one silver lining of the pandemic is that it pushed more high school students to take dual enrollment classes.

With the ever-rising cost of postsecondary education, dual enrollment programs are a great way for high school students to save on college costs. These programs allow advanced students to get a head start on their futures.

This is the case at Jefferson State Community College in Birmingham, Alabama, where high schoolers made up a third of the student body, according to NPR. These students are benefiting from extensive State expansion of a dual enrollment program. The more education innovation we have, the better.

Madam Speaker, we know that if a high school student takes at least one college-level course, that student is three times more likely to graduate from college than if the student didn't take a course.

We should give students as many opportunities as possible to shape their own education experience, and encouraging dual enrollment is one great way to do just that.

□ 1015

FILLING THE SKILLS GAP

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, it is no wonder we have a skills gap. For decades, people have been told that a bachelor's degree is the only path to a successful career. As a result, fewer and fewer young people are choosing to learn skilled trades.

Without skilled professionals, who will repair our roads, homes, and cars? We need these men and women who aren't afraid to get their hands dirty.

Yet, applications for technical jobs dropped by almost 50 percent over the last 2 years.

With a potential looming recession for those holding office jobs, many might be disappointed they missed out on learning a high-skilled trade. Fortunately, it isn't too late. Many open technical jobs pay a six-figure salary, and businessowners are struggling to fill them.

If I had to give young people advice today, it would be to consider learning a high-skilled trade.

LOOMING DEBT CEILING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I was very encouraged with today's reports that the Republican leadership is planning to teach their Members about how the debt ceiling works. This is a very good sign, especially after the embarrassing first week with 15 votes to elect a Speaker, and the House leadership ending up exactly where it started. Unfortunately, the leadership is hallowed out, but they have empowered the exact same element or any other faction who want to hold the Speaker hostage.

But there is a key difference going forward. They are playing games with the full faith and credit of the United States, which is underpinning the global economy. Note, the debt ceiling is not just a way station on the way to a full government shutdown. While government shutdowns have real costs and consequences, the debt ceiling has massive ramifications that you cannot unwind.

This game of chicken with the global economy is very much more consequential. You can recover from the shutdown. But the Trump attacks on professionals, for example, drove thousands of people out of government service, and it is going to take years and millions of dollars to repair. These implementations of political slogans have real consequences.

In the end, I suspect we will be right where we started. The only way to reduce the deficit, to balance the budget books, is to actually reduce government spending, which they refused to do in the Trump administration when they were in total control of the government. They instead had a huge increase in the deficit. There were, of course, tax cuts that were a part of that, unfunded, and there was a major spike in military spending.

My friend, Hal Harvey, a leader in climate science, is fond of saying that you can't refute science, math, and economics. That is exactly the situation that my Republican friends are facing with this game of chicken with the debt ceiling.

There is no gimmick, there is no commission, and there is no slogan that avoids the painful truth that you

actually have to reduce spending. There are real things we could do.

I would suggest any Member could avail themselves of a secret weapon that is in each and every one of our districts. There are amazing young people who are involved with civics, with leadership congresses, with the efforts to understand how government works. I think we ought to employ them. They understand the dynamic: Cut spending, raise taxes, or just collect the taxes that are due and owing, which would be hundreds of billions of dollars. Unless and until we do this, all the rest is simply meaningless slogans and posturing, unfortunately with real risks of threatening the full faith and credit of the United States.

My friends have no alternative to the borrowing, and I am afraid that we are going to end up going through this meaningless exercise, agitating ourselves, confusing the public, and losing an opportunity to make real progress, improving the budgeting process, and making the tax system more effective to just collect the taxes that are already due and owing, which we are ignoring.

I strongly encourage the process that my Republican friends are involved with in terms of educating Members about the impacts of the debt ceiling, and I hope that we are able to come together to deal with the realities of what that implies.

RECOGNIZING STATE-OF-THE-ART UGA POULTRY SCIENCE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the creation of a state-of-the-art poultry science building at my alma mater, the University of Georgia.

In the State of Georgia, the poultry industry contributes an annual \$21.5 billion to our State's economy. The industry also generates an annual \$2.1 billion in Federal tax revenue. The poultry industry is vital to not only the State of Georgia but also the country. That is why I am proud to recognize the University of Georgia for building a brand-new poultry science building on their campus.

This \$54.1 million facility will feature new classrooms, research labs, and learning labs. These new labs will enhance the traditional classroom experience by offering students opportunities to learn in a fieldwork setting. These facilities are vital for preparing students as they enter the poultry industry.

I know this new project will serve the students at the university and the people of Georgia's First District well.

GEORGIA AMONG LEED-CERTIFIED TOP 10

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the State of Georgia for being a top 10 finisher in the country last year for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design-certified green buildings.

The United States Green Building Council has been working hard to create a healthier, more sustainable, and resilient world through LEED, and its annual ranking is an opportunity to recognize everyone working toward that goal.

Buildings that are LEED certified create healthier spaces for people, use fewer resources, reduce carbon emissions, and improve efficiency while providing operational cost savings.

Georgia is a leader in green building and ranks sixth out of the top 10 States. 2022 saw growth in green building and sustainability, and I am proud that Georgia is at the forefront of building a healthier, more sustainable future.

I thank all the building professionals who helped our State achieve this ranking.

RECOGNIZING GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Georgia Ports Authority for handling nearly 6 million 20-foot containers in 2022. In 2022 alone, the Georgia Ports Authority had a 5 percent increase in container handling.

Collaborative effort across Georgia's supply chain ensured that cargo movement remained a top priority during a very challenging year.

The Port of Savannah achieved 4 of its top 5 months for container volume in 2022, with trade volumes peaking in August at an all-time high of 575,500 20-foot containers.

With the renovation of Berth 1 at Garden City Terminal, the 90-acre Garden City Terminal West expansion, and the transition of Ocean Terminal to an all-container facility, the Port of Savannah is set to increase annual capacity from 6 million to 7.5 million 20-foot containers.

I congratulate the GPA on this wonderful accomplishment.

HONORING RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPUTY ISAAH CORDERO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a fallen hero, Riverside County Sheriff's Department Deputy Isaiah Cordero, who gave his life serving our community.

Every day, our law enforcement officers put on their uniforms, kiss their loved ones good-bye, and go to work not knowing if they will come home.

On December 29, 2022, Deputy Cordero put on his uniform, said good-bye to his loved ones, and went to work that day to protect and serve. That afternoon, he was tragically shot and killed in the line of duty during what should have been a routine traffic stop.

Now, a family mourns a loved one, our local law enforcement grieves a brother, and our community lost a guardian, protector, and friend.

Deputy Cordero's service began with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department as a correctional deputy on May

5, 2014. From the start, he was a hard-working, loyal colleague who led by example and wanted his partners to succeed.

As a correctional deputy, he worked on cases at the Larry D. Smith Correctional Facility and the Indio jail. Later, he was promoted to deputy sheriff after completing training with the 204th Basic Academy.

When he was transferred to the Jurupa Valley Station, Deputy Cordero achieved his goal to serve as a motor deputy. He had served in his dream job for only 3 months before his death at just 32 years old.

Our community will remember Deputy Cordero as a selfless public servant who gave his life for our safety. His mother, Rebecca; father, Gilbert; step-brother; loved ones; and friends will cherish his memory as a good man, devoted son, and loving uncle who brought a smile to everyone's face and as a kind soul who was quiet, polite, and humble, a ray of sunshine who loved motorcycles, cars, and punk rock.

Together, as a community, let us honor his legacy, and together, as a Nation, let us salute his courage, remember his sacrifice, and show our appreciation for his fellow brothers and sisters who wear the badge, continuing to protect and serve every day.

MEMORIALIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF
RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPUTY DARNELL CALHOUN

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to memorialize the life and legacy of Riverside County Sheriff's Department Deputy Darnell Calhoun.

Our communities were shattered again by a tragic loss. On January 13, 2023, Deputy Calhoun was fatally shot while responding to a domestic violence incident in Lake Elsinore, California. He was just 30 years old.

He was born in Pomona and grew up in Murrieta, California, where he worked at his family's restaurant, Calhoun's Texas Family Barbeque.

In 2019, Deputy Calhoun began his career in law enforcement with the San Diego Police Department, where he served for 3 years. He then joined the Riverside County Sheriff's Department to be closer to his family.

You see, that is the thing about Deputy Calhoun. If there is one word to describe him, it is devoted: devoted to our community, devoted to his church, and, above all, devoted to his family.

He loved being a dad and raising his growing family with his wife, Vanessa. It is all he ever wanted.

For his children, Russell, Troy, and Malcolm, who is on the way; your children; my children; and everyone's children, Deputy Calhoun worked every day to make the world a better and safer place for us all.

A fixture in the community, Deputy Calhoun could often be found at Covenant Grace Church, serving brisket at his family's restaurant, or out with the people, leading the way on community policing.

He was an Eagles fan, a good man with a servant's heart who lived to

serve, and a courageous deputy who put his life on the line for our safety.

As the Calhoun family, fellow Riverside County Sheriff's Department officers, and our entire local law enforcement community carries the heavy burden of grief, anguish, and sorrow with Deputy Calhoun's passing, we must fulfill our solemn duty to honor and respect his service.

Today, residents of Riverside County mourn the tragic loss of two fallen officers in the sheriff's department within 15 days of each other.

Madam Speaker, I ask everyone present on the House floor today to join me in a moment of silence for Deputy Calhoun, Deputy Cordero, their families, and every fallen officer who has answered the call, put their lives on the line, and sacrificed themselves for our safety.

□ 1030

OUR BRIGHTEST DAYS ARE YET TO COME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss my plans for representing the Big First District in the 118th Congress.

As I have said on this House floor before, the Big First is the geographic center and the pilot light of America because there, the values that make America great are still alive and well: faith, family, freedom, and personal responsibility. We are farmers, ranchers, feed lot managers, businessowners, lenders, bankers, teachers, doctors, nurses, and parents.

My job is to serve and advocate for the people of the Big First, which is why I am excited and grateful to have been appointed to the House Agriculture, House Transportation and Infrastructure, and House Small Business Committees.

As a farm kid and a fifth-generation Kansan, I am honored to serve on the House Agriculture Committee again in the 118th Congress. Agriculture is the largest economic driver of the Big First. We rank number one in beef, wheat, and sorghum production. When I meet with farmers, ranchers, and agriculture producers, I hear about skyrocketing inflation and record-high input costs, labor shortages, government overreach, and the importance of reauthorizing the farm bill.

We need well-crafted farm and food policy in America to remain secure as a Nation, and the reauthorization of the farm bill is an enormous responsibility. My priorities for that legislation remain the same: to protect and strengthen crop insurance, promote trade, and stop regulatory overreach. I am committed to rolling up my sleeves and working for the men and women who feed, fuel, and clothe the world.

I am also honored to serve on the House Transportation and Infrastruc-

ture Committee. The Big First has 83,000 miles of road, seven commercial airports, and more than 4,000 miles of railroad tracks. We rely on this system to get to work, take our kids to school, and deliver food, fuel, and fiber to the rest of the world.

The people of the Big First deserve a voice on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and I am proud to be their spokesperson. A well-maintained, fiscally responsible infrastructure network supports economic activity, strengthens the supply chain, and helps America to remain a global power.

During this Congress, I will also serve on the House Small Business Committee. The Big First is home to more than 200,000 small businesses which employ 80 percent of all employees in the district.

Small businesses help drive the American economy and define the American dream. They add brick and mortar to the values that make our country unique, like freedom, self-determination, and the pursuit of happiness.

As a child, I learned about the responsibility, drive, and decisionmaking skills required to run a small business from watching my parents operate our preconditioning feedlot and family farm. I will continue to defend and support small businesses, their owners, employees, and the American values that small businesses embody.

I am honored to serve on these committees, and we have a lot of work to do. Over the next 2 years, we need to reauthorize the farm bill, develop new trade agreements with countries that will benefit American ag producers, and review the Commodity Futures Trading Commission Act. We need to reauthorize FAA and the Water Resources Development Act, protect producers from a burdensome and overreaching definition of waters of the United States, and ensure that our small and regional airports have the support they need. We also need to maintain the stepped-up basis, return money to small businesses from IRS watchdogs, and ensure that small businesses have a fair shot at government contracts.

I will be working on a wide variety of issues, but I am bringing the same approach to all of them. A Russell native, Senator Bob Dole once told me about the Kansas approach: honesty; hard work; respect for your roots; service; simplicity; genuine, thoughtful care for people; and just plain common sense.

I learned these Kansan conservative values as a kid in the Big First, they inspire my work today on all my committees, and they will always guide my steps here in Congress.

Ultimately, I believe that with prayer and hard work, our brightest days are yet to come.

DEBT CEILING NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, last Thursday America's outstanding debt hit its limit. As a result, Treasury Secretary Yellen has warned leadership of the irreparable harm that will come to the U.S. economy if the debt ceiling is not addressed.

To avoid defaulting on our loans, the Secretary has been forced to slow investments into the retirement of Federal employees and health benefits of postal workers.

Madam Speaker, let me remind you that this has been dealt with in the past. Congress has dealt with the debt ceiling 78 times, 49 times in Republican administrations, and 29 times in Democratic administrations. If it is not dealt with now, the penalties will not stop at the actions that the Secretary was forced to take.

For 66 million Americans that receive Social Security checks every month and the more than 63 million Americans that rely on Medicare for care, their benefits will be cut.

Interest rates will increase, affecting car loans, credit cards, home mortgages, and small business investments. Tax refunds will be delayed, and above all, we will face a looming recession that will devastate our economy and result in skyrocketing unemployment and homelessness.

Let's be clear, raising the debt ceiling is not giving a green light on wild, runaway spending. It is simply ensuring that we can pay for the obligations that we have already made.

Instead of working to resolve this issue, Republicans continue to hold our economy hostage. To threaten defaulting on our debt to secure service cuts is dangerous and shows little regard for the American people.

We have seen how this plays out—we were there in 2011 when Republicans tried to pull this same stunt. The delay in negotiations resulted in the Federal Government's first ever downgrade in its credit rating. The Dow Jones fell nearly 2,000 points, and it is estimated that it raised borrowing costs for the government by \$1.3 billion.

I want my fellow Americans to remember this: The Republicans are gambling on your money, on your benefits, and on your livelihood.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to act responsibly, swiftly, and without unnecessary delays or attempts to score political points. Our Nation's financial stability and our constituents depend on it.

DEBT CEILING CONCERNS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise to talk a little bit about the national debt and accusations that have been made against my colleagues in the House Republican Conference.

I have listened as a couple of my colleagues from the Democratic side have accused us of playing chicken and gambling, and have said they are glad that we are going to be educated on the impacts of a default on the debt. I will tell you, I agree with a lot of the consequences that have been outlined about the default.

What I want my colleagues to recognize on the other side of the aisle is that 2 days before Christmas a bill passed this House, 4126 pages, and spent \$1.7 trillion dollars. That bill was negotiated among four people: Speaker PELOSI, Majority Leader SCHUMER, President Biden, and Minority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL.

When President Biden signed the bill on December 30, what I want my colleagues to know is that we had already hit the debt limit on December 30.

I have the Daily Treasury Report dated December 30 of 2022. The national debt subject to the limit was \$31,347 trillion. The statutory debt limit is \$31,381 trillion. Now, technically, we were 99.89 percent of the way to the debt limit. For all practical purposes, if you spent 99.89 percent on your credit card, you are there.

The four people who negotiated it had to know that we were less than one-tenth of 1 percent away from hitting the debt limit the day that legislation was signed. All they had to do in that 4,000-page omnibus bill was write one sentence to change the debt limit to what it would have taken to fund their omnibus bill.

One sentence would have changed the debt limit in this country, and we wouldn't be having the discussions we are having today about default—but they didn't do that.

January 19 was 20 days after that bill was signed, and now they are accusing House Republicans of being fiscally demented and not paying attention, playing chicken, and gambling with America's future.

The four people that negotiated that deal had four choices. They could have passed a continuing resolution with a debt limit included. They could have passed a continuing resolution without the debt limit. They could have passed an omnibus bill and included the debt limit. They could have passed an omnibus bill and not included the debt limit.

There was only one of those choices that would have led to the current situation where everybody points the finger at House Republicans and says you are gambling with. The one choice that led to the current situation is an omnibus bill without the debt limit included.

Guess what those four, with 160 years of political experience, chose? They chose the one that would lead to the current situation.

They could have included the debt limit in the piece of legislation that was adopted and signed on December 30. They chose not to. You don't need to point the finger at Republicans and say we are gambling and playing chicken.

The fact of the matter is, the four people that negotiated the omnibus bill knew exactly what they were doing. This crisis was intentionally created, and it is something that we are going to have to work together to get out of.

We have \$32 trillion in debt. In 2019, we had \$21 trillion. We can't keep running at a \$2 trillion deficit every year.

DEBT LIMIT AND IMPACT ON WORKING FAMILIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. TOKUDA) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TOKUDA. Madam Speaker, I know I am going to be the third Democratic speaker to talk about the debt limit, but I think it is a point that needs to be made.

Madam Speaker, every single day Americans across our country are forced to take extraordinary measures just to keep a roof over their head and food on the table. Now, because of the extremist agenda of some of our Republican colleagues, the Department of the Treasury has begun to do the same to avoid a default.

The consequences of such a default could be catastrophic. The first real default in U.S. history could lead to a sudden jump in interest rates and raise mortgage, car, and credit card payments for our working families. As the Federal Government struggles to maintain its financial commitments, payments for Social Security, benefits for veterans, and paychecks for military servicemembers could be delayed and suspended.

By one estimate, a default could add \$130,000 to the cost of an average 30-year mortgage, eliminate over 3 million jobs, and increase the national debt by an additional \$850 billion. As much as \$15 trillion in household wealth could be wiped out in the ensuing recession. Our competitors across the world, like China and Russia, would surely see this U.S. default as an indication of American decline and be further emboldened.

As the Representative of Hawaii's Second Congressional District, I speak on behalf of the diverse communities I represent, spanning all eight Hawaiian islands. I am here to fight for working families struggling with the high cost of living, small businesses providing jobs and opportunities for our residents, senior citizens seeking security in retirement in old age, and above all, our children and their futures.

In my first month alone on this job, we find our country inching toward a debt crisis at the national level that could devastate my constituents and their ability to care for their families—all caused by the extreme politics of my Republican colleagues.

This is not a short-term, one-off issue. The implications for our economy, on our foreign policy, and on our communities are severe and long term.

When I sit down at my kitchen table every night and look across at my sons, I worry. Will they have their own kitchen table filled with family in Hawaii?

□ 1045

If Republicans force our country into a default, their future will be even more challenging to afford a home of their own or to be able to even rent one, to own a car to get to work or to save for their children's future.

Hawaii is one of the most expensive places to live in the country, with residents paying on average 42 percent of their income on rent, the highest of any State. I know that workers and families of every single one of our districts are struggling every day to make ends meet.

The American people need to see solutions, not just grandstanding. They need to see progress so that they can hope for a better future. That means we have to build and act on the progress delivered by the first 2 years of the Biden administration and one of the most productive Congresses in modern history. In these 2 years, Democrats have lowered healthcare costs, created nearly 11 million jobs, supported over 10 million new small business applications, put shovels in the ground on 7,000 new infrastructure projects, and invested in a revival of American manufacturing.

This Congress should be building on the progress of the last 2 years, not tearing it down by flirting with default and make unacceptable demands to cut Social Security, Medicare, and other critical programs that working families across the country depend on.

Why would House Republicans hold our economy hostage and the American people in anxious suspense for months when they can pass a clean debt limit increase right now?

When House Republicans tried to do this in 2011, they forced an unnecessary economic shock to our country that resulted in the first time our credit has ever been downgraded in our history. We cannot do that again.

We can have a reasoned debate, discussion, and negotiations over the right level of government spending, as every Congress does every year through the budget and appropriations process. But whether the United States pays its bill on time must not be a pawn in a Republican political game. Our families work hard to pay their bills on time; their government should too.

I have heard from so many people how much they love Hawaii; so do I. If you have the chance to visit our home stop and take a look. One in five residents depend on their Social Security benefits every single month. Madam Speaker, 1 in 10 people who call Hawaii home are veterans or Active-Duty serv-

icemembers. These are the faces of the people held hostage and hurt by Republicans.

We have an opportunity to rise above our differences and give them a Congress that has their best interests squarely in sight, one that gives them hope.

Madam Speaker, I urge my Republican colleagues to work with us to quickly pass a clean debt limit raise as soon as possible. The American people and our constituents deserve no less.

SERVING IOWA'S THIRD DISTRICT IS AN HONOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUNN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NUNN. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to join this House, the newest Representative from the great State of Iowa. I rise not to speak of division within this Chamber but to champion the importance of providing pragmatic, solution-oriented leadership for the American people.

Serving the people of the Third District, I am humbled by the Iowans who voted for change and remain mindful that good representation includes being a fighter for every single Iowan, regardless of party.

That is why I am committed to ushering in a new era of public service for our community, one that begins with transparent, pragmatic, and bipartisan work.

With nearly two decades as a combat veteran, intelligence officer, and a former State legislator, service has always come before self. In the military, it is never 9 to 5. Deployments flying over Afghanistan meant spending time away from family, and tours overseas sacrificed memories shared with friends. But we had a call to serve, and our brothers and sisters in arms demanded that we complete the job.

My call to serve now is being a Representative for every Iowan in all 21 counties. Whether in Des Moines or Atlantic or Ottumwa, common challenges facing Iowans are dire. Inflation is crippling families and small businesses, taxes and governmental overreach are burdensome, our communities just this week are hurting from violent crime, and providing quality education is top of mind across our State.

As a servant in Iowa, we worked across the aisle, and we delivered, passing the largest tax cut in State history three times over. Growing productivity for Iowa's family farms, we are now first in corn, first in soybean, first in hogs, and first in high school graduation—not to mention, we are still first in the GOP caucuses.

In Iowa, small businesses kept going during the pandemic, and we ensured that Iowa's schools were open so students and parents could work with educators to teach the next generation of Iowa leaders.

I am a sixth-generation Iowan. I know the struggles we face. I come

from a century family farm. My mother was a nurse, and my father was a high school math teacher; they taught my brother and me to take responsibility and to serve with grace in our hearts. Our community helped raise all of us.

In high school, I met my future wife, Kelly, and we are blessed with four kids and two foster children. Our hope for them is that we can offer what our parents provided for us.

In times of tragedy, we are reminded that family always comes first. This week we were saddened to lose my father-in-law, Kelly's dad, Jim. He was a union electrician, and he only voted once for a Republican.

Thank you, Jim.

He was the best grandpa to our kids, the best dad, and the best husband. He was a man who lived his life to the fullest with the ones he loved, which is what the world needs more of today.

The importance of family is something every Iowan can agree on. In Congress, I would like to see more of this realized, that there are more things that can be done to achieve the 80 percent of priorities that we all agree on. Americans would rather spend time seeing us work together than in partisan dogfights.

In 2023, we entered a period of divided government. But this is no excuse for gridlock or inaction. The American people demand and deserve leaders who are willing to work for meaningful policies to address the challenges that we all face: high inflation, educating our kids, protecting our communities, and energy independence that serves both our national security and protects our natural resources.

There is always more that can be accomplished when we work together than when we are alone. Together we can ensure a prosperous American future for the next generation by making our country safer, stronger, and more accountable.

With that goal in mind, I am honored to bring Iowa's influential voice to the House Agriculture Committee and bring Des Moines' expertise in the insurance industry to serve on the Financial Services Committee. We have the opportunity to bring homegrown Iowa values and priorities to the Nation's Capital. And as a D.C. outsider and citizen legislator, I plan to take full advantage of these opportunities to make what works in Iowa an opportunity for the entire country.

Most importantly, I will strive every single day to be a servant to my fellow Iowans. I will also work to be the best father and husband to my family. This means being present right in my hometown back in Iowa where together we all work and live.

I will be traveling across the district nonstop to hear from all Iowans in all 21 counties both urban, suburban, and rural in the new Third Congressional District. I look forward to delivering pragmatic solutions for Iowans and helping D.C. along the way to operate a

little bit more like we do in Iowa: family and neighbors first, common sense, hard work, and—as always—a little bit of Iowa nice.

TAX EMANCIPATION FOR THE RICH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Madam Speaker, in what seems to be a concession to the most far-right members of the Republican Party, the Republican leadership has scheduled a vote on the alleged FairTax Act that would completely overhaul the tax system to blatantly favor the rich.

The proposed legislation would abolish the Internal Revenue Service and eliminate all Federal taxes, including the estate taxes and corporate income taxes. In place of Federal taxes, the bill would impose an effective 30 percent national sales tax across the board.

The working class would face a substantially higher tax burden as a result, and the richest Americans would receive a sizeable cash reward. It is difficult to overestimate how regressive this tax would be, and according to the tax experts, it would have a wide range of detrimental effects, not just on income taxes but also on items like Affordable Care Act premiums and the child tax credit.

The Republicans claim that they are the party of working people, but they appear to be making an effort to demonstrate that they are absolutely not that. Some of the wealthiest people in our country can pay exceptionally low tax rates, avoid paying taxes on their largest assets, and pass their fortunes on to their children tax-free because of the many ways the tax system is set up to enable corporate taxpayers to avoid paying taxes.

Conservatives have spent decades creating this kind of tax emancipation for the rich while waging a fierce battle against attempts to reinstate tax enforcement against the 1 percent. This just further advantages the wealthy by giving them more opportunities to take advantage of the working class. In Florida's 20th District where the median household income is under \$55,000 a year and families already struggle to make ends meet, the FairTax Act will put my constituents at a unique disadvantage.

There is nothing fair about the FairTax Act. This is a handout to the rich. Americans will feel the weight of this 30 percent sales tax on necessities like food and gas.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reconsider this legislation and work with House Democrats on the most pressing issues that face our country.

VETERAN OF THE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Colonel Jason M. Brock who served 32 years in the Tennessee Air National Guard.

Colonel Brock began his military career as an enlisted member in 1991 and worked hard during his service to earn a bachelor of science degree from the University of Tennessee in 1994.

In 1998, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant. Since then, Colonel Brock has served in a variety of assignments as a logistics readiness officer and a maintenance officer, and has deployed numerous times in support of multiple operations including Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, Southern and Northern Watch, Joint Guard, and Noble Eagle.

During his assignment as director of staff for the State of Tennessee Air, he also supported many domestic operations, including Tennessee's military response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Colonel Brock plans to retire this year, and it is a well-earned retirement, Madam Speaker. He plans to spend more time with his wife and his two sons on family outings to the lake and camping. He also has his private pilot license, and he looks forward to enjoying more time in the sky.

Our country's heroes are the men and women of our armed services, like Colonel Brock, who served and sacrificed for our freedom. It is my honor to recognize Colonel Jason Brock as the Tennessee Second District's January 2023 Veteran of the Month.

MIDWAY IGA

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Joe and Dale Longmire on selling Midway IGA and retiring from the grocery business.

Claude and Ruby Longmire started Longmire Grocery in Corryton in 1947. They raised Joe and Dale in the grocery business, and they worked very hard in this their entire lives.

In 1988, Madam Speaker, Joe and Dale bought the Midway IGA right there on Tazewell Pike, as you well know.

Joe and Dale say the community has been very good to the Longmires, and the Midway IGA has been very good to the community. They have been great friends of mine. When you go in there, Madam Speaker, local kids work there. They work the counters and they work everywhere. They have some of the best fried chicken—I believe it is actually called broasted fried chicken—that I have ever had, except, of course, what my wife and my sweet mama used to make.

Of course, my family and I trade at the IGA on a regular basis, and the Longmires supported me when I first ran for mayor. They were some of the first people who came out and supported me. They had a fundraiser for me at their house. They live on Emory Road, the same road I live on now. Emory Road is a very long road, Madam Speaker. I actually went to the

wrong end of Emory Road, and I was 1 hour late to my own fundraiser; but it just increased the anticipation of my arrival.

The Longmire brothers have said that nothing about the store will change, which I am very glad to hear. Midway IGA has been great to our community, and I hope we don't lose that.

I wish their sister, Leesa, the best as she sticks around the store as their scanning manager. I wish Joe and his wonderful wife, Becky—who has been a dear friend to me and my girls a long time—and Dale and his wife, Ellen, the best in their retirement.

Joe plans to finish a book he has been researching about the history of Corryton. I look forward to getting an autographed copy which I am sure I will pay dearly for.

PUTTING PEOPLE OVER POLITICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA) for 5 minutes.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to sound the alarm. Extreme MAGA Republicans have an economic plan that will hurt working families. For 2 years House Democrats have delivered for everyday Americans.

The economic progress that House Democrats and President Biden have led is simply remarkable. So let's talk about this significant growth Democrats have made possible by President Biden's economic plan.

We created 11 million jobs. Under Trump we lost 2.9 million jobs.

The unemployment rate is at 3.5 percent—one of the lowest rates in our history. Under Trump it was 6.3 percent.

We lowered healthcare costs for working families. Under Trump, 3 million more people lost their insurance.

We capped insulin at \$35 for our seniors on Medicare.

We expanded Medicare and Social Security benefits.

This is progress, but this progress is threatened by extreme MAGA Republicans.

□ 1100

While most Americans are worried about post-COVID prices at the grocery store, the extreme MAGA Republicans in charge of the House GOP want to increase the average family's costs for groceries and everyday essentials by hundreds of dollars every month. That is right, Madam Speaker, raising it by hundreds a month.

They are doing this by championing a new 30 percent national sales tax. The House MAGA Republicans would jack up the prices on the products that we rely on. Imagine paying in my district 30 percent more when you go to HEB for your groceries.

This kind of blanket tax increase is failed economic policy that attacks the foundation of our economic growth and hurts working families.

My Republican friends all talk about responsible spending and balanced budgets. Families will not be able to balance their own budgets if the extreme MAGA wing gets its way.

Madam Speaker, we have already witnessed what this so-called leadership looks like. The very first bill the GOP put before the House will make it easier to hand tax breaks to the wealthy and well connected.

They are not just trying to make it easier for the ultrapowerful to pay even less in taxes. Sadly, extreme Republicans want to gut Social Security, eliminate Medicare, and reverse new lower drug prices House Democrats just fought hard to get for working families.

If they have their way, Social Security and Medicare as we know it will end. Working families will lose the benefits they have earned by paying into a system for decades.

In my home district, there are more than 80,000 people living on their Social Security income. That is more than 10 percent of my constituents. These are retired workers, disabled workers, widows, and children who need these critical funds to survive.

Let me repeat: They earned their benefits by paying into the system for many, many decades.

When extreme MAGA Republicans fight and say they don't want to raise the debt limit, I want everyone to know what that really means. It is not economic theory; it is political posturing.

They raised the debt limit every time Trump was in office, and in fact, Trump is responsible for 25 percent of our current debt.

When they say they are going to fight, it really is about hurting people. It would mean Social Security payments won't be sent, and people already living hand to mouth won't get the money they earned. This is totally unacceptable.

The full faith and credit of the United States means more than paying our government's bills on time. It means keeping groceries in the refrigerator and medicine in the cabinet for many people in my district.

House Democrats will continue to fight for working families. It is the middle class that makes our country strong.

We will always put people over politics. We will always put people first.

KEEPING OUR CONSTITUTIONAL REPUBLIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. SPARTZ) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SPARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight an ongoing problem with our institution, which starts reminding one of a theater full of actors, a circus, or a dog-and-pony show with a lot of messaging, grandstanding, demagoguing, talking points, but no real results badly needed for the American people.

When Benjamin Franklin was leaving the Constitutional Convention in 1787 and was asked what kind of government the delegates had created, he replied: "A republic, if you can keep it."

It has been over 200 years since that time, but do we really appreciate what it means to have a constitutional republic, the rule of law, presumption of innocence, and proper due process?

As someone who grew up under a dictatorship in the Soviet Union, I cherish these freedoms tremendously, and I understand how hard it is to get them back when you lose them and how many people have died for them.

Therefore, regardless of politics, I will vigorously defend our Constitution and our rights for all Americans. Congress is not a kangaroo court and has proper committees, like Ethics or Judiciary, to provide proper due process to all individuals, whether it is President Trump and Representative GREENE or President Biden and Representative OMAR.

I adamantly argued last Congress as a member of the Judiciary Committee to provide this due process, so I am not planning to become a hypocrite now and lose this credibility. We have to become the adults in the room and stop the bread and circuses in Congress.

No one is above the law, but no one is below the law.

HONORING HARVEY DRAHOS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. STRICKLAND) for 5 minutes.

Ms. STRICKLAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Harvey Drahos, a beloved World War II veteran who lives in the South Puget Sound of Washington State.

A member of America's Greatest Generation, he joined the military in 1943 and rose to the rank of technician fifth grade.

Like many of our World War II heroes, Mr. Drahos was wounded on the front lines, and as the Battle of Okinawa went on, he made a promise: If I survive, I vow to help people.

Like many of his generation, he made serving our great Nation and its citizens a cornerstone of his life's work.

Post-military service, he served on multiple service organization boards and dedicated 53 years of active community service and leadership to Washington State.

One piece of Mr. Drahos' story that stood out to me is that while on the battlefield in Japan, he recovered a cherished photo album. After decades of searching for the family it belonged to, he was able to get it back to the Nakamoto family in Okinawa. This selfless act helped a family reunite with their past loved ones, transcending the boundaries of war with a kind act of humanity.

Madam Speaker, Harvey Drahos exemplifies courage, selfless service, and

love for others. He recently celebrated his 100th birthday and is the last living member of his World War II military unit. I am honored and proud to recognize him for his service in combat and his love and compassion for our Nation.

CONGRATULATING ALFIE ALVARADO-RAMOS

Ms. STRICKLAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lourdes "Alfie" Alvarado-Ramos, who will retire at the end of this month as director of the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs.

I congratulate Alfie on an exemplary and distinguished career serving the American people and my fellow Washingtonians for more than five decades.

Alfie enlisted in the Army in 1971, rising to the rank of troop command sergeant major at Madigan Army Medical Center, part of Joint Base Lewis-McChord in my district.

After retiring from the military in 1993, Alfie joined the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs and has served as its director for the last decade. Under her leadership, the department was recognized as the leading State veterans affairs department in the entire Nation, offering the largest portfolio of services.

Madam Speaker, throughout her career, Alfie has broken barriers and empowered the next generation of soldiers to lead at the highest levels of military and public service. More importantly, she has been instrumental in making sure that our veterans are never forgotten.

I thank Director Alvarado-Ramos for her selfless service to our veterans, the State of Washington, and our Nation. She is a true patriot indeed.

CELEBRATE LITERACY WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BEAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to wish you and all Americans a happy Celebrate Literacy Week.

The Florida Department of Education has designated this week as a week to focus on reading, but you don't have to be from Florida to celebrate reading. All Americans can work to inspire students and families to make reading a part of their daily routines and install a lifelong love of reading.

This year's theme is "Take a Deep Dive Into Literacy—Splash Into New Worlds." Fitting with the theme, I was honored and proud to read "Pirate Pete's Talk Like a Pirate" to the fourth grade classes at Yulee Elementary School in northeast Florida.

Yulee Elementary School is an outstanding, rated-A school based on the Florida School Accountability Reports. This school is led by Principal Bryce Cubbal and Assistant Principal Tara Libby. These educators are to be commended for the fantastic things they are doing for our students.

Madam Speaker, they say reading is fundamental, but I will say that it is

only fundamental if we encourage reading. I encourage everybody that if you get a chance to read to a young person, do it. It will be good for them and for you.

TREATING ABORTION SURVIVORS HUMANELY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LUTTRELL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LUTTRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss H.R. 26, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act that passed out of the House last week unanimously on one side but divided on the other, except for one vote from a colleague from Texas.

I understand that the Nation is divided on the topic of abortion, but that is not what this bill is. This bill is to protect a living soul that survived a traumatic event.

This is one that I have been losing sleep over, and I wanted to add my perspective from someone who fought in two wars. What I don't understand is why we are divided because when I was overseas and my teammates and I, my brothers and sisters in arms, were actively engaging the Taliban, al-Qaida, ISIS, and at any moment, whether it was an ambush or an IED, if a hostile act was being presented to us and that individual relinquished their weapons, decreased their aggressive posture, we were to do the exact same.

If that terrorist, if that individual, was injured or shot, we were to render medical aid. We were to act humanely even after they just tried to kill us. If necessary, we would life-flight them to the same hospital that an American soldier would go to, period.

That rule of law was passed out of this body unanimously. Every Member in this House demanded that American soldiers treat every human humanely, period.

That rule protects individuals that, because of the color of your skin, they would crucify, torture, and kill you; that because of your religious practices, if it was not in accordance with theirs, they would lock you in a cage and throw you in a lake. If they did not agree with who you were, what you were, and how you were, they would mercilessly hunt you down and execute you.

What I don't understand is how this body could unanimously pass a law that would protect somebody who absolutely despises our way of life, but we cannot come together to protect an innocent child that survived an abortion. I don't understand that.

I know that everyone in here is a mother, a father, a grandparent, an aunt, or an uncle, and at any moment walking down the street, if there was a child in duress, you would kill yourself to get to them and save them, but because this child survived abortion, you are going to turn your back and vote not to give them medical care.

If this ever presents itself back to this body, I humbly take a knee and

ask that you change your vote and vote "yes" to protect these children.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 15 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ROSE) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

O Lord, God of peace, we pray this day for the peace found only in You, not as the world gives, for that which is found there is fleeting and flawed. Reveal yourself in this world which rages with hostilities, where there are wars and rumors of wars as far-flung as Ukraine is from Taiwan, where violence threatens to be the only answer to discord. Reveal yourself and grant us Your peace.

Lord, how long? How long will aggressors take it upon themselves to usurp not just the sovereignty of a nation but basic human rights? Lord, put an end to the senseless shedding of blood, the indiscriminate targeting of innocents.

Then may those who have suffered in ways we cannot imagine emerge from the ashes of their shattered lives and be raised up as a testimony to their enduring faith in Your redeeming grace. May the religious resolve of the persecuted in Ukraine, the endangered believers in Nigeria, the repressed Uyghurs in Xinjiang shine as a light in our darkness and show us what it means to believe in the hope of Your salvation.

Turn our hearts to receive Your mercy and transform our lives to reflect Your peace, for it is in Your sovereign name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr.

AUCHINCLOSS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

DEFENDING CONSERVATIVE SPEECH

(Ms. DE LA CRUZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to let the American people know their access to conservative programming on one of our Nation's largest satellite TV providers is at risk.

DIRECTV, one of my district's largest satellite providers, has threatened to remove Newsmax from its lineup. Why, may I ask? Newsmax has simply asked to receive equal compensation for DIRECTV carrying its channel through carriage fees. Though Newsmax has higher ratings than many other more liberal stations offered on DIRECTV, the satellite provider owned by AT&T will not negotiate in good faith with Newsmax. Again, I said AT&T.

The threat of conservatives losing an independent media outlet is real should DIRECTV not agree to a new carriage agreement with Newsmax. This appears to be another victory in the woke left's efforts to cancel conservatives and limit free speech.

Mr. Speaker, I raise these concerns as a defender of the First Amendment with the hope that DIRECTV will do the right thing and keep Newsmax on its air.

REFORM THE NOTICE TO AIR MISSIONS SYSTEM

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, on January 11, the failure of the Notice to Air Missions system grounded thousands of flights across America. This malfunction created air travel chaos for days.

This system is essential to safe flight operations and needs to be reformed. The Notice to Air Missions Improvement Act takes a proactive approach to make much-needed upgrades.

Many of the airline safety measures implemented over the past 15 years were borne out of the lessons we learned following the crash of flight 3407 outside of Buffalo. We must not wait for another tragedy to make the

necessary steps to protect the flying public.

I support this bipartisan bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

AMERICAN FAMILIES AT RISK

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, since Biden took office, there have been nearly 5 million crossings of illegal aliens from over 100 countries, a direct result of his failed policies and those of the Democrat-led Congress. Biden and Democrats shamefully support what they expect as low-information voters, ignoring the immediate threat of terrorists.

According to Customs and Border Protection, last month was the 10th consecutive month of more than 200,000 illegal crossings. Federal seizures have also resulted in fentanyl rising over 50 percent from November to December 2022, murdering young Americans.

The House Republican majority will deliver commonsense solutions to stop identified terrorists who are threats to American families at greater risk of mass murder than ever before.

House Republicans are holding the government accountable and will not stop until the American people are protected with a wall and fences, as Donald Trump attempted to achieve.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism continues, moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America.

CEMENTING THE UNITED STATES-ISRAEL AI PARTNERSHIP

(Mr. AUCHINCLOSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today because I am planning to reintroduce the United States-Israel Artificial Intelligence Center Act, a bipartisan piece of legislation that will cement a mutually beneficial partnership between the United States and Israel on artificial intelligence research.

This is a critical step forward in an era where AI and its implications are taking center stage in public discourse. We must collaborate with international partners like the Israeli Government to ensure that the United States maintains a leadership role in AI research and development and responsibly explores the many possibilities evolving technologies provide.

The United States-Israel Artificial Intelligence Center Act will allow us to tap into the expertise of both countries and draw upon each other's resources to explore and develop cutting-edge AI advancements.

RECOGNIZING MOMENTIVE TECHNOLOGIES

(Mr. MILLER of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the many leaders of industry in Ohio's Seventh Congressional District, Momentive Technologies.

Headquartered in Strongsville, Ohio, Momentive Technologies is a global leader in quartz and ceramic materials for semiconductors and one of the largest producers of boron nitride in the world. Momentive Technologies' products are indispensable components in a broad range of goods, from semiconductors, aerospace, water purification, and pharmaceuticals to consumer electronics and telecommunications.

I had the privilege of visiting their headquarters while I was back home for last week's district work period. Momentive Technologies has invested heavily in its Ohio operations. Its year-over-year capital spend has increased 35 percent each year since 2020, and it hopes to continue that strong record of investment for the benefit not only of Ohio but of America's economic security.

I look forward to working together with Momentive Technologies and others across different industries to ensure American economic and industrial security for generations to come.

RAISING DEBT CEILING IS ROUTINE BUSINESS

(Mr. GRIJALVA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, since Speaker MCCARTHY won't tell us what he had to give extremist Republicans in his caucus in a backroom deal for power, we can only assume that they agreed to tank the economy and destroy millions of jobs unless Congress slashes Social Security.

Raising the debt ceiling is a routine matter of business that has been passed cleanly by Republican Presidents, including Trump, and Democratic Presidents alike.

If Republican lawmakers default, the shock will plunge the world into a recession and a financial crisis.

Let's not forget that 65 million Americans are on Social Security.

This debate is clear. Speaker MCCARTHY made a deal with the devil in exchange for the power to hold our economy hostage and push through extremist Republican proposals, such as Senator RICK SCOTT's plan to sunset Social Security.

We can't allow it to happen. Tell us what to aim to cut and save Social Security.

SUPPORTING PEOPLE OF IRAN

(Mr. MCCORMICK asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the people of Iran as they struggle against an oppressive and dangerous regime.

I also commend our great Iranian-American community in Georgia and across this Nation who hope that their friends and family on the other side of the world may one day have the freedom and prosperity we all enjoy in the United States. They are great patriots and valued citizens.

For 4 consecutive months, Iranians have been protesting and calling for the downfall of the clerical regime in Tehran. Their rulers have brutally repressed dissidents and protesters, killing women who violate their dress codes and men who stand up for their sisters, mothers, wives, and daughters.

In the 117th Congress, 260 bipartisan Members of Congress cosponsored H. Res. 118, which expressed unequivocal support for the Iranian people's desire to establish a secular, democratic, and nonnuclear republic.

I hope that we can attract even more bipartisan signers for our resolution this week, of which I am a proud cosponsor.

HOUSE DEMOCRATS STAND UNITED FOR SOCIAL SECURITY

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, while I and my Democratic colleagues, as well as the Biden-Harris administration, have raised Social Security benefits by 8.7 percent, extreme Republicans are attempting to force cuts to Social Security eligibility and benefits that will hurt the financial security of America's seniors.

Their very first bill released the wealthy and well connected from giving their fair share of taxes, adding \$114 billion to the debt.

Social Security used to be a bipartisan-supported program. It is a vital lifeline for Americans, and House Democrats will continue to fight to protect Social Security not only for our seniors now but for future generations.

Together, House Democrats will continue to stand united in holding our Republican colleagues accountable and to push back against their efforts to subsidize the lifestyles of the rich and powerful.

DETROIT IS AT CROSSROADS

(Mr. THANEDAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, Detroit is a city of firsts, likely the site of the first urban freeway built in the U.S., where Henry Ford manufactured his first car, and the birthplace of the U.S. auto industry.

Yes, this city bleeds authentic Americana and yearns for a renaissance. However, my district is at a crossroads.

In the 13th Congressional District, businesses are beginning to hire more people, which means more traffic on the roads and more people using our public transportation system.

Metro Detroit was renowned for having one of the worst public transportation networks of any large city in the Nation even before the COVID-19 pandemic.

While others work from home, many jobs require in-person work. Public transportation is still necessary, and demand might rise in the future.

I applaud the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act during the last Congress. Still, there needs to be a strong emphasis on infrastructure goals.

□ 1215

CONDEMNING VIOLENCE

(Ms. HOULAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, I stood on this very House floor and I voted to condemn violence at crisis pregnancy centers. A vote that was difficult to make, not because I think it was wrong to condemn violence, I don't.

Rather, it was difficult as an American to watch this governing body politicize the ideas of civility and decency that should be undoubtedly woven through every last one of us.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before you to condemn violence again, this time at an abortion clinic. I stand before you to acknowledge the violent attack at the Planned Parenthood in Illinois last week. The cowardly arson attack, a firebomb, damaged the building just days after abortion protections were signed into law in Illinois.

Let there be no mistake, this was clearly intended to terrorize women, girls, their families, and the medical professionals who serve them from exercising reproductive freedoms.

Now, I ask my Republican colleagues to join me as I have joined them in condemning violence and this violent attack. From this day forward, I invite all Americans to unequivocally say that we must restore civility and decency in every corner of our Nation because violence is never the answer ever.

COVID VACCINE PRICING

(Ms. PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to Big Pharma cheating taxpayers.

As pharmaceutical companies prepare to sell vaccines on the private market, they are jacking up the price tag on our public health.

After tens of billions of dollars of sales, vaccine manufacturers have floated commercial prices over four times higher than the price currently paid by the government.

Taxpayers contributed to every aspect of these vaccines, from the underlining science, to the clinical trials, to purchasing agreements, but only the manufacturers will profit.

Just two vaccine manufacturers control 97 percent of the market. They will not compete because they do not have to.

I have worked on legislation to prevent anticompetitive pricing in consolidated markets, like vaccines. This is especially important for products that our tax dollars paid for.

We cannot continue to ask taxpayers to help cover the risk, while letting Big Pharma collude to reap the profits.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 56

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS: Mr. Rogers of Kentucky, Mr. Aderholt, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Carter of Texas, Mr. Calvert, Mr. Cole, Mr. Diaz-Balart, Mr. Womack, Mr. Fleischmann, Mr. Joyce of Ohio, Mr. Harris, Mr. Amodei, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Valadao, Mr. Newhouse, Mr. Moolenaar, Mr. Rutherford, Mr. Cline, Mr. Reschenthaler, Mr. Mike Garcia of California, Mrs. Hinson, Mr. Tony Gonzales of Texas, Ms. Letlow, Mr. Cloud, Mr. Guest, Mr. Zinke, Mr. Clyde, Mr. LaTurner, Mr. Carl, Mrs. Bice, Mr. C. Scott Franklin of Florida, Mr. Ellzey, Mr. Ciscomani.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE: Mr. Burgess, Mr. Latta, Mr. Guthrie, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Bilirakis, Mr. Johnson of Ohio, Mr. Bucshon, Mr. Hudson, Mr. Walberg, Mr. Carter of Georgia, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Dunn of Florida, Mr. Curtis, Mrs. Lesko, Mr. Pence, Mr. Crenshaw, Mr. Joyce of Pennsylvania, Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Weber of Texas, Mr. Allen, Mr. Balderson, Mr. Fulcher, Mr. Pfluger, Mrs. Harshbarger, Mrs. Miller-Meeks, Mrs. Cammack, Mr. Obernolte.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES: Mr. Lucas, Mr. Sessions, Mr. Posey, Mr. Luetkemeyer, Mr. Huizenga, Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Barr, Mr. Williams of Texas, Mr. Hill, Mr. Emmer, Mr. Loudermilk, Mr. Mooney, Mr. Davidson, Mr. Rose, Mr. Steil, Mr. Timmons, Mr. Norman, Mr. Meuser, Mrs. Kim of California, Mr. Donalds, Mr. Garbarino, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Flood, Mr. Lawler, Ms. De La Cruz, Mr. Ogles, Mrs. Houchin, Mr. Nunn of Iowa.

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION: Mr. Steil, Chair, Mr. Loudermilk, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Murphy, Mrs. Bice, Mr. Carey, Ms. Lee of Florida, Mr. D'Esposito.

COMMITTEE ON RULES: Mr. Burgess, Mr. Reschenthaler, Mrs. Fischbach, Mr. Massie, Mr. Norman, Mr. Roy, Mrs. Houchin, Mr. Langworthy.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS: Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Smith of Nebraska, Mr. Kelly

of Pennsylvania, Mr. Schweikert, Mr. LaHood, Mr. Wenstrup, Mr. Arrington, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Estes, Mr. Smucker, Mr. Hern, Mrs. Miller of West Virginia, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Kustoff, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Steube, Ms. Tenney, Mrs. Fischbach, Mr. Moore of Utah, Mrs. Steel, Ms. Van Dyne, Mr. Feenstra, Mrs. Malliotakis, Mr. Carey.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE COORDINATION ACT

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 255) to amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to develop a study regarding streamlining and consolidating information collection and preliminary damage assessments, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H. R. 255

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Federal Disaster Assistance Coordination Act".

SEC. 2. STUDY TO STREAMLINE AND CONSOLIDATE INFORMATION COLLECTION AND PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1223 of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–254) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 1223. STUDY TO STREAMLINE AND CONSOLIDATE INFORMATION COLLECTION AND PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.

"(a) INFORMATION COLLECTION.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator, in coordination with the Small Business Administration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Disaster Assistance Working Group of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and other appropriate agencies, shall—

"(1) conduct a study and develop a plan, consistent with law, under which the collection of information from disaster assistance applicants and grantees will be modified, streamlined, expedited, efficient, flexible, consolidated, and simplified to be less burdensome, duplicative, and time consuming for applicants and grantees; and

“(2) develop a plan for the regular collection and reporting of information on Federal disaster assistance awarded, including the establishment and maintenance of a website for presenting the information to the public.

“(b) PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator, in consultation with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, shall convene a working group on a regular basis with the Secretary of Labor, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, the Secretary of Transportation, the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, and other appropriate agencies as the Administrator considers necessary, to—

“(1) identify and describe the potential areas of duplication or fragmentation in preliminary damage assessments after disaster declarations;

“(2) determine the applicability of having one Federal agency make the assessments for all agencies; and

“(3) identify potential emerging technologies, such as unmanned aircraft systems, consistent with the requirements established in the FEMA Accountability, Modernization and Transparency Act of 2017 (42 U.S.C. 5121 note), to expedite the administration of preliminary damage assessments.

“(c) COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.—The Administrator shall submit one comprehensive report that comprises the plans developed under subsections (a)(1) and (a)(2) and a report of the findings of the working group convened under subsection (b), which may include recommendations, to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

“(d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The comprehensive report developed under subsection (c) shall be made available to the public and posted on the website of the Federal Emergency Management Agency—

“(1) in pre-compressed, easily downloadable versions that are made available in all appropriate formats; and

“(2) in machine-readable format, if applicable.

“(e) SOURCES OF INFORMATION.—In preparing the comprehensive report, any publication, database, or web-based resource, and any information compiled by any government agency, nongovernmental organization, or other entity that is made available may be used.

“(f) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after submission of the comprehensive report, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or a designee, and a member of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, or a designee, shall brief, upon request, the appropriate congressional committees on the findings and any recommendations made in the comprehensive report.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The item relating to section 1223 in the table of contents of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-254) is amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 1223. Study to streamline and consolidate information collection and preliminary damage assessments.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN) for her leadership on this bill.

H.R. 255 is commonsense legislation to establish a process that is going to identify ways to streamline and consolidate the collection of certain disaster information.

While the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, is the lead Federal agency on disasters, there are often many Federal agencies involved in the disaster response and recovery process.

It is critically important that these agencies are all working efficiently to minimize overlaps in their assessments and utilize new technologies to streamline processes.

Specifically, the legislation is going to establish a Federal working group led by FEMA to coordinate with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency to identify ways to reduce duplication and streamline the Federal damage assessment process.

This is just a good government bill that will help improve disaster recovery efforts which were previously passed by the House in the 116th and 117th Congresses.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 255, the Federal Disaster Assistance Coordination Act, introduced by Representatives GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, PETERS, and PLASKETT.

This legislation amends the Disaster Recovery Reform Act to help Federal agencies streamline and consolidate information collection and Preliminary Damage Assessments following disasters.

After a major disaster, there is no time to wait for bureaucracy. However, Federal recovery assistance following disasters is currently hampered by inefficient information collection and assessments conducted by multiple agencies.

This bill will remove information collection barriers that currently impede disaster aid. It creates a working group to identify duplicative assessments and propose their elimination.

Further, it would streamline Federal disaster recovery efforts by concluding

that a single agency is sufficient to conduct damage assessments to account for the needs of disaster victims. The Federal Government can and should be doing this work smarter.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN).

Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Mr. Speaker, I would say, first of all, that I thank Chairman GRAVES for his leadership and for acting so swiftly to bring this bill to the floor of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise in support of my bill, H.R. 255. I thank Representatives SCOTT PETERS of California, STACEY PLASKETT of the U.S. Virgin Islands, and NEAL DUNN of Florida for cosponsoring this legislation.

H.R. 255 would establish a process to identify ways to streamline and consolidate the collection of certain disaster information to start the recovery process for individuals and families that were devastated by any natural disaster.

Mr. Speaker, I hear about these issues with delays and confusion related to requirements and processing of disaster assistance on a regular basis. I meet with mayors of the island—and this is just in the case of Puerto Rico—but I know we do have the same process and the same situation across the Nation. This is a significant source of frustration for my mayors and my constituents as well as people all over the country.

While FEMA is the lead Federal agency on disasters, many others are also often involved in disaster response and recovery, like, for example, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Small Business Administration, just to name a few.

In the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017, and the seismic activity in Puerto Rico in 2020, we discovered that Federal agency after Federal agency would require the same information in their preliminary assessments, which meant tens of thousands of site and damage assessments.

We see some of this repeating itself in the aftermath of last year's Hurricane Fiona in Puerto Rico and Hurricane Ian in Florida and with other disasters across the Nation.

This is not just a bill for the islands or the territories. This is a bill for the rest of the Nation on how to manage and get expedited help and response from Federal agencies.

Currently, there is no process to share these assessments among Federal agencies, which ultimately causes significant delays for immediate relief and prolongs recovery. This is compounded by other administrative issues like frequent staff changes and constituents and mayors having to work with multiple personnel to handle a single application or request.

In 2020, FEMA finally decided to begin consolidating assessments for Puerto Rico to speed up the delivery process across multiple Federal agencies. Many of these assessments are small, often one part of a larger project, which has continuously slowed down the recovery process.

H.R. 255 would establish a Federal working group led by FEMA, in collaboration with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, to identify ways to reduce duplication and modernize the Federal management assessment process to make it truly agile and efficient. We need to ensure assistance is provided while safeguarding taxpayer funds. I think with this bill we can do both.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is critical that these agencies are working together to minimize overlaps in their assessments and consider the use of the newest technologies to streamline processes. Very often, we, in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, have these same discussions about what happened in Louisiana, what happened in Florida, what happened on the East Coast, what happened on the West Coast every time we have a natural disaster. It always is the same problem.

I trust this bill will expedite disaster recovery across the Nation. As we have learned in Puerto Rico, it is not if the next disaster will occur, it is when it is going to happen and how we are going to face it.

Every 1st of June, another hurricane season begins for the territories and the eastern coast. Since the last time this language passed the House in the 117th Congress, we had another direct hit with Hurricane Fiona.

I am pleased we are considering this bill so early in this 118th Congress, and that is the reason I thanked our chairman for his marvelous job bringing this bill to the floor.

I can, therefore, work quickly to make this proposal the law of the land as part of our efforts to better prepare for disaster response.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

□ 1230

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I am prepared to close. I inquire of my colleague if there are any remaining speakers on his side.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, in closing, this bipartisan bill passed the House on suspension in the 116th and 117th Congresses. It will help disaster survivors by taking a step toward streamlining the Federal Government's fragmented approach to disaster assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, in closing, H.R. 255 is just good gov-

ernment legislation that is going to help streamline disaster recovery efforts by improving the coordination efficiency of Federal agencies involved in disaster assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 255.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

POST-DISASTER ASSISTANCE ONLINE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 259) to provide for an online repository for certain reporting requirements for recipients of Federal disaster assistance, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 259

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Post-Disaster Assistance Online Accountability Act".

SEC. 2. SUBPAGE FOR TRANSPARENCY OF DISASTER ASSISTANCE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF REPOSITORY FOR REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the head of each covered Federal agency, shall establish a subpage within the website established under section 2 of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) to publish the information required to be made available to the public under this section.

(b) SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Not later than 30 days after the end of a calendar quarter, each covered Federal agency that made disaster assistance available to an eligible recipient during such quarter shall, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, make available to the public on the subpage established under subsection (a) the information described in subsection (c), and ensure that any data asset of the agency is machine readable.

(c) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—The information described in this subsection is, with respect to disaster assistance provided by the covered Federal agency—

(1) the total amount of disaster assistance provided by the agency during such quarter;

(2) the amount of disaster assistance provided by the agency that was expended or obligated to projects or activities; and

(3) a detailed list of all projects or activities for which disaster assistance dispersed by the agency was expended, obligated, or used, including—

(A) the name of the project or activity;

(B) a description of the project or activity;

(C) an evaluation of the completion status of the project or activity;

(D) any award identification number assigned to the project;

(E) the Catalog for Disaster Assistance number assigned by the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(F) the location of the project, including ZIP Codes; and

(G) any reporting requirement information being collected by a covered Federal agency with respect to that agency's disaster assistance.

(d) GUIDANCE.—Each covered Federal agency, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Secretary of the Treasury, shall issue such guidance as is necessary to meet the requirements of this Act.

(e) AGREEMENT WITH PRIVATE ENTITY.—The Director, if necessary for purposes of transparency, may enter into an agreement with a private entity, including a nonprofit organization, to develop the subpage required under this section.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act, the following definitions apply:

(1) COVERED FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term "covered Federal agency" means—

(A) any agency providing assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.);

(B) the Small Business Administration; and

(C) the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(2) DISASTER ASSISTANCE.—The term "disaster assistance" means any funds that are made available by the Federal Government in response to a specified natural disaster, including—

(A) any assistance provided by the Administrator of the Small Business Administration as a result of a disaster declared under section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b));

(B) any assistance provided by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for—

(i) activities authorized under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, and economic revitalization in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a major disaster declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.); and

(ii) flood insurance coverage provided under the National Flood Insurance Program pursuant to the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.); and

(C) any assistance provided under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

(3) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term "eligible recipient"—

(A) means any entity that receives disaster assistance directly from the Federal Government (including disaster assistance received through grant, loan, or contract) other than an individual; and

(B) includes a State that receives disaster assistance.

(4) SPECIFIED NATURAL DISASTER.—The term "specified natural disaster" means—

(A) a fire on public or private forest land or grassland described in section 420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5187);

(B) a major disaster declared by the President under section 401 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5170);

(C) an emergency declared by the President under section 501 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5191); and

(D) any other natural disaster for which a disaster declaration is made by the Federal Government.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD on H.R. 259.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 259, the Post-Disaster Assistance Online Accountability Act, introduced by our Republican colleague from Puerto Rico (Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN), will increase transparency for post-disaster Federal assistance.

H.R. 259 requires agencies that provide Federal disaster assistance to update a central website quarterly with information on their disaster assistance programs. This increased transparency is going to allow the American taxpayers to see where their hard-earned dollars are going and which areas are receiving the most Federal assistance for post-disaster recovery.

The Post-Disaster Assistance Online Accountability Act passed the House last Congress overwhelmingly by a vote of 412 yeas to 2 nays. I hope we can repeat this very strong showing this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS,
Washington, DC, January 19, 2023.

Hon. SAM GRAVES,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GRAVES: I write concerning H.R. 259, the Post Disaster-Assistance Online Accountability Act. The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, with additional referrals to the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Small Business. Specifically, provisions of H.R. 259 fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Small Business.

I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House of Representatives in an expeditious manner, and accordingly, the Committee on Small Business will forgo action on the bill. However, this is conditional on our mutual understanding that doing so will not prejudice the Committee on Small Business with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matter contained in the bill or similar legislation that falls within the Committee on Small Business's Rule X jurisdiction. Further, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I appreciate your agreement to support my request to have the Committee represented on the conference committee.

Finally, I would ask that a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest in the bill be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during consideration of H.R. 259 on the House floor.

Sincerely,

ROGER WILLIAMS,
Chairman,
House Committee on Small Business.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 19, 2023.

Hon. ROGER WILLIAMS CHAIRMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Small Business,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 259, the Post Disaster Assistance Online Accountability Act. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively to ensure that H.R. 259 is considered expeditiously before the House of Representatives.

In response to your letter, I recognize that this bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Small Business. I also acknowledge that your Committee's decision to forgo consideration would not prejudice your Committee regarding the appointment of conferees, to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill, or to similar legislation falling under your Committee's Rule X jurisdiction. In addition, should a conference on this bill become necessary, I would support your request to have members of the Committee on Small Business represented on the conference committee.

I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during consideration on the House floor. Thank you again, I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with you as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

SAM GRAVES,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 20, 2023.

Hon. SAM GRAVES,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GRAVES: I am writing concerning H.R. 259, the "Post-Disaster Assistance Online Accountability Act." Per your request, I agree that the Committee on Financial Services shall be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House Floor. The Committee takes this action with the mutual understanding that, by foregoing consideration of H.R. 259 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved on this or similar legislation as it moves forward. The Committee also reserves the right to see appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any conference with the Senate involving this or similar legislation, and we request your support for any such request.

Finally, as you mentioned in your letter, I ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this bill be included in your committee's report to accompany the legislation, as well as in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during floor consideration thereof.

Sincerely,

PATRICK MCHENRY,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, January 17, 2023.

Hon. PATRICK MCHENRY,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCHENRY: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 259, the "Post-Disaster Assistance Online Accountability Act." The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, with additional referrals to the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Small Business.

I ask that you allow the Committee on Financial Services to be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Financial Services represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and any response in the Congressional Record during floor consideration, to memorialize our understanding.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

SAM GRAVES,
Chairman.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 259. This bill, introduced by Resident Commissioner Gonzalez-Colon and Delegate Plaskett would create a new online system for tracking Federal disaster projects and assistance.

People should know how and where their disaster funds are being spent without wading through reams of governmental paperwork. This legislation simplifies the data collection process for Federal disaster recovery projects.

To increase transparency, the bill also creates a page on USASpending.gov where everyone can track agency disaster recovery activities and the amount of assistance expended by an agency on a quarterly basis.

Federal agencies need to be accountable to the victims of disasters and allow them peace of mind when they are at their most vulnerable.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides to join with me and support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN).

Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 259, the Post-Disaster Assistance Online Accountability Act.

Again, I thank Chairman GRAVES for moving forward with this bipartisan initiative, for making it possible so early in this Congress, and for it to be considered today.

I also thank my sister from the Virgin Islands, STACEY PLASKETT, as well as Representatives Malliotakis and Cleaver for their support and as co-sponsors on this legislation.

H.R. 259 would provide an innovative and comprehensive approach to tracking Federal disaster projects and assistance, as well as the funds.

It establishes a single online repository to report information about Federal disaster assistance to provide transparency to the American taxpayer.

This proposal, developed in collaboration with the Project of Government Oversight, would establish a subpage for transparency of disaster assistance on the USASpending.gov website to better inform the public about the status of the use of disaster funding. And believe me, Mr. Speaker, every time I go back to the district every weekend this is the first question I receive from my constituents: What happened with the funds to the bridge?

What happened with the funds to the school?

What happened to the funds to the roads that are still damaged 5 years after a hurricane?

Many people ask themselves these questions: Where is the Federal funding that has been approved by Congress?

Where is the money that has been allocated to the Federal agencies?

Does a contractor have it?

Did the local government spend the money well?

Those are general questions that everybody, at least in Puerto Rico, are asking.

So this bill would require agencies that offered disaster assistance, including the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Small Business Administration, the Department of Agriculture, and many others, to regularly submit updated information to the Office of Management and Budget to ensure that the best possible data is available in an easily accessible format.

The data to be published would include: the amount of disaster assistance provided by the agencies; the amount of disaster assistance that has been obligated or expended to projects or activities; and a detailed list of all projects or activities for which disaster assistance dispersed by the agency was expended, obligated, or used, including a description of the project or activity, as well as an evaluation of the completion status of that project.

I think this will help not just the general public, not just American taxpayers, but also the government agencies to know where the funding is and when those projects are going to be completed.

During the last few years, my district, like many others represented here in the House, has faced multiple hardships due to disasters. In Puerto Rico, we are still working through the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, the earthquakes of 2020, and last year's Hurricane Fiona. Much of the support has been approved for rebuilding—this Congress passed legislation allocating billions of Federal funding not just to Puerto Rico, but to Texas,

to California, and to many other States—and, of course, we need better accountability and oversight to ensure this funding is being used as intended by Congress.

H.R. 259 will foster accessibility and transparency of information to track Federal funding and its status. It will also enable local mayors and legislators, nongovernmental organizations, and individual constituents to know what funding has been used for, where the funding will go, and how much funding is left to be spent, among other information.

In Puerto Rico we have put money here for hospitals, for piers, and for bridges, and people don't even know where the money is because the projects have not even begun yet. This kind of information will not only help Federal and local agencies but mostly the American taxpayers.

This will allow better awareness of progress and utilization of resources and to ensure that streams of available funding are not overlooked or underutilized.

The transparency provided with this bill will be essential for better congressional oversight of disaster recovery in all the States and communities where it has been received so agencies can account for how effectively it is being used, and if it is getting to the hands of the individuals and communities that need it and that it was intended to go to.

Mr. Speaker, passing this legislation will assist efforts to improve Federal disaster response and make it more accountable and effective. I urge my colleagues to vote for passage of H.R. 259, the Post-Disaster Assistance Online Accountability Act.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, the House passed this bipartisan bill on suspension as well in the past two Congresses. I look forward to passing this commonsense transparency measure again today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, in closing, this commonsense accountability measure is going to enable taxpayers to get a greater sense of where their money is going and allow agencies to see where they can coordinate post-disaster recovery efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 259.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION REAL ESTATE LEASING AUTHORITY REVOCATION ACT

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 388) to amend title 40, United States Code, to eliminate the leasing authority of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 388

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Securities and Exchange Commission Real Estate Leasing Authority Revocation Act".

SEC. 2. LEASING OF SPACE FOR SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3304 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) LEASING OF SPACE FOR SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, on and after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Securities and Exchange Commission may not lease general purpose office space. The Administrator may lease such space for the Securities and Exchange Commission under section 585 and this chapter.”.

(b) LIMITATION ON STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—The amendment made by subsection (a) may not be construed to invalidate or otherwise affect a lease entered into by the Securities and Exchange Commission before the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. INDEPENDENT LEASING AUTHORITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the review described in subsection (b).

(b) REVIEW.—The Comptroller General shall complete a review under which the Comptroller General shall update the 2016 report of the Comptroller General (GAO-16-648) with a specific focus on the following:

(1) Updating the information included in Appendix II: Federal Entities That Reported Having Independent Leasing Authority for Domestic Offices and Warehouses of such report.

(2) Determining to what extent Federal entities with independent leasing authorities have had such authorities rescinded or amended and the number and amount of office and warehouse space such entities lease.

(3) Determining to what extent have agencies with independent leasing authority utilized the General Services Administration for leasing, including utilization of delegation of authority.

(4) Identifying progress made on implementing the recommendations in such report.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all

Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 388.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 388 revokes the Securities and Exchange Commission's, or the SEC's, leasing authority for general office space and brings them in line with current leasing practices through the General Services Administration, or the GSA.

In 2012, the SEC violated Federal law by signing a lease for 1.4 million square feet that cost taxpayers \$566 million. This resulted in investigations by the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the SEC's Inspector General.

The conclusions of these investigations indicated that not only did the SEC exceed its authority with this lease, but also that the SEC had a history of mismanaging its leasing authority.

Recent actions by the SEC during GSA's procurement of leased space for the SEC seem to indicate that the agency may be turning back to its old ways.

This bill ensures that the SEC, like other Federal agencies, continues to use the GSA for its space needs and provides more safeguards for the taxpayers' money.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 388, the Securities and Exchange Commission Real Estate Leasing Authority Revocation Act.

This legislation, introduced by Delegate ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON of the District of Columbia revokes the independent real estate leasing authority of the SEC and directs the Government Accountability Office to update its 2016 report on Federal entities with independent real estate leasing authority.

While some Federal agencies have independent real estate leasing authority and have used it responsibly, the SEC has a history of egregious real estate practices.

Congress granted the SEC independent leasing authority in 1990, which means the SEC does not need to use the General Services Administration for its real estate needs like most other government agencies do.

In 2010, anticipating the agency would expand in response to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, the SEC leased 900,000 square feet of space in the Constitution Center building in Washington, D.C.

Then, a year later, in 2011, the SEC's Office of Inspector General issued a re-

port which found that the SEC Office of Administrative Services conducted a flawed analysis to justify the need for this leased space and potentially committed Anti-Deficiency Act violations.

SEC's Office of Inspector General found that OAS grossly overestimated the amount of space needed at SEC headquarters for the SEC's projected expansion and prepared a faulty Justification and Approval to support eliminating competition.

Thankfully, Delegate NORTON introduced identical legislation to repeal this authority during the 117th Congress, and that bill, H.R. 1468, passed both the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the House of Representatives with bipartisan support. Unfortunately, H.R. 1468 was not considered by the Senate. Today, we are trying one more time to approve this commonsense legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank Chair GRAVES and Ranking Member LARSEN for bringing this important bill to the floor.

This bill would revoke the independent real estate leasing authority of the Securities and Exchange Commission and direct the Government Accountability Office to update its 2016 report on independent real estate leasing authority in the Federal Government. The House passed this bill last Congress.

While a number of Federal agencies have independent real estate leasing authority, the SEC has a history of egregious real estate practices.

In 2005, the SEC disclosed that it had unbudgeted costs of approximately \$48 million for the construction of its headquarters near Union Station.

In 2007, after moving into headquarters, the SEC shuffled its employees to different office space at a cost of over \$3 million without any cost-benefit analysis or justifiable explanation.

In 2010, the SEC conducted a deeply flawed analysis to justify the need to lease 900,000 square feet and to commit over \$500 million over 10 years, overestimating its space needs by over 300 percent. In addition, the SEC failed to provide complete and accurate information and prepared a faulty and backdated justification and approval after it had already signed the lease.

In August 2016, the General Services Administration and the SEC entered into an occupancy agreement to authorize GSA to secure a new 15-year lease.

In December 2016, GSA, with the approval of SEC, submitted a prospectus

to Congress for approximately 1.3 million square feet, which Congress approved in 2018.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentleman.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me more time.

By July 2019, GSA had received final bids, resolved all protests, and even selected a final bidder. A month later, the SEC canceled the occupancy agreement, citing concerns about the value of the purchase option, which SEC refused to document to Congress. The SEC effectively vetoed the entire 3-year procurement process despite not having the authority or funding to exercise the purchase option without GSA's involvement.

Finally, after much back and forth between the two agencies, GSA entered into a lease agreement for a new SEC headquarters in September 2021. The SEC says it will continue to have GSA do its leasing in the future, but the SEC's history of egregious leasing conduct, having squandered hundreds of millions of dollars, makes this bill necessary.

These public blunders also risk undermining the reputation of GSA and the Federal Government among developers and building owners who participate in Federal lease procurements. The threat of uncertainty ultimately drives up the cost of all GSA real estate procurements.

It is time for Congress to return the SEC's leasing authority to GSA, the Federal Government's civilian real estate arm. As the SEC has demonstrated over three decades, it is incredibly inefficient, wasteful, and redundant to have the SEC involved in real estate procurements when GSA exists for that very reason.

Like other Federal agencies, the SEC will continue to have input with the GSA and involvement in the real estate decision-making process, but GSA would have the ultimate authority.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to return the SEC's leasing authority to the GSA, the Federal Government's civilian real estate arm. This legislation would do just that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

H.R. 388 ensures that the SEC is going to work with the GSA on leasing to improve oversight, reduce costs, protect taxpayers against wasteful spending, and minimize Anti-Deficiency Act violations in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 388.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NOTAM IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2023

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 346) to establish a task force on improvements for notices to air missions, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 346

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “NOTAM Improvement Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. FAA TASK FORCE ON NOTAM IMPROVEMENT.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall establish a task force to be known as the FAA Task Force on NOTAM Improvement (in this section referred to as the “Task Force”).

(b) **COMPOSITION.**—The Task Force shall consist of members appointed by the Administrator, including at least one member of each of the following:

- (1) Air carrier representatives.
- (2) Airport representatives.
- (3) Labor union representatives of airline pilots.
- (4) The labor union certified under section 7111 of title 5, United States Code, to represent FAA air traffic control specialists assigned to the United States NOTAMs Office.
- (5) The labor union certified under section 7111 of title 5, United States Code, to represent FAA aeronautical information specialists.
- (6) General and business aviation representatives.
- (7) Aviation safety experts with knowledge of NOTAMs.
- (8) Human factors experts.
- (9) Computer system architecture and cybersecurity experts.

(c) **DUTIES.**—The duties of the Task Force shall include—

- (1) reviewing existing methods for presenting NOTAMs and flight operations information to pilots;
- (2) reviewing regulations and policies relating to NOTAMs, including their content and presentation to pilots;
- (3) evaluating and determining best practices to organize, prioritize, and present flight operations information in a manner that optimizes pilot review and retention of relevant information; and
- (4) providing recommendations for—
 - (A) improving the presentation of NOTAM information in a manner that prioritizes or highlights the most important information, and optimizes pilot review and retention of relevant information;

(B) ways to ensure that NOTAMs are complete, accurate, and contain the proper information;

(C) any best practices that the FAA should consider to improve the accuracy and understandability of NOTAMs and the display of flight operations information;

(D) ways to work with air carriers, other airspace users, and aviation service providers to implement solutions that are aligned with the recommendations under this paragraph; and

(E) ensuring the stability, resiliency, and cybersecurity of the NOTAM computer system.

(d) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the establishment of the Task Force, the Task Force shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report detailing—

(1) the results of the reviews and evaluations of the Task Force under paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (c);

(2) the best practices identified and recommendations provided by the Task Force under subsection (c)(4);

(3) any recommendations of the Task Force for additional regulatory or policy actions to improve the presentation of NOTAMs; and

(4) the degree to which implementing the recommendations of the Task Force described under paragraph (2) will address National Transportation Safety Board Safety Recommendation A-18-024.

(e) **APPLICABLE LAW.**—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Task Force.

(f) **SUNSET.**—The Task Force shall terminate on the later of—

(1) the date on which the Task Force submits the report required under subsection (d); or

(2) the date that is 18 months after the date on which the Task Force is established under subsection (a).

(g) **AUTHORITY.**—The Administrator shall have the authority to carry out the recommendations of the Task Force detailed in the report required under subsection (d).

(h) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **FAA.**—The term “FAA” means the Federal Aviation Administration.

(2) **NOTAM.**—The term “NOTAM” means notices to air missions required by international or domestic regulation or law, as described in FAA Order 7930.2S.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 346, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 346, as amended, the NOTAM Improvement Act of 2023.

Just 2 weeks ago, Americans woke to the largest ground stop of aircraft

since 9/11 due to the outage of the Federal Aviation Administration's, FAA's, notice to air mission, more commonly called the NOTAM system.

As a professional pilot, I use the NOTAM system on a regular basis and know firsthand just how important it is to ensure that it is reliable and functional.

This incident highlights a huge vulnerability in our transportation system. As much as I wish we could say that this incident surprised us, this kind of issue was inevitable. Committee leaders have repeatedly raised the alarm about our woefully out-of-date NOTAM system.

This same bill has been introduced and passed two Congresses in a row, and multiple laws coming out of the Transportation Committee have demanded that the Department of Transportation and the FAA step up and address the well-known issues with the NOTAM system.

What occurred nearly 2 weeks ago is unacceptable, and the American people deserve much better. Hopefully, this incident was the wake-up call that the DOT and the FAA needed to shake off their ongoing failure to properly maintain our Nation's air traffic control system.

H.R. 346, as amended, is going to help address this failure by identifying issues with the NOTAM system and proposing solutions to prevent an incident of this magnitude from ever occurring in the future.

This bill creates a special task force to improve the utility, stability, resiliency, and cybersecurity of the FAA's NOTAM system. Composed of representatives from airlines, aviation safety experts, and other important aviation stakeholders, the task force is going to review existing NOTAM policies, regulations, and the system's overall integrity to determine best practices to increase the system's efficiency and decrease its susceptibility to outages, which cause other disruptions.

Originally, this bill was focused on improving the NOTAM presentation so that pilots and dispatchers could focus on critical information that matters. In 2017, an Air Canada flight nearly landed on a crowded taxiway in San Francisco because the NOTAM informing them of a runway closure was buried on page 8 of 27.

Mr. Speaker, we urgently need a better system and a more stable system. I thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER) for their leadership and foresight on this particular piece of legislation.

H.R. 346 is a good, bipartisan, and timely aviation safety bill. It shows that the people's House can rise to the urgent issues of the day.

Mr. Speaker, I support the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 346, the NOTAM Improvement Act of 2023, as amended. This bill was introduced by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER).

On the morning of January 11, the U.S. airspace came to a standstill when the FAA grounded all airline domestic departures for the first time since September 11, 2001, due to an agency contractor mistakenly causing an outage of the FAA's NOTAM system.

NOTAMs are a critical part of our aviation infrastructure as they provide essential, real-time flight safety information—such as potential hazards—to pilots, flight dispatchers, and other airspace users.

Although the FAA worked to quickly solve the problem and lift the subsequent domestic flight ground stop, the cascading effects of mass delays and cancellations were seen for hours.

I fully support the FAA's actions to ensure the NOTAM outage would not affect the safety of the national airspace system; however, our constituents deserve better. They deserve to have both a safe and reliable national airspace system.

The FAA has moved to put several operational and systematic mitigations in place to try to prevent future NOTAM outages from occurring. However, the recent NOTAM system outage shows a clear need to reexamine and modernize the safety-critical systems and legacy infrastructure that flight crews and airline passengers depend upon.

To help strengthen the integrity of the system, this bipartisan bill directs the FAA to create a task force on NOTAM improvement to review existing methods for the content and presentation of NOTAMs to pilots; determine best practices to prioritize and disseminate critical flight information to pilots in a way that optimizes review and retention; and develop recommendations to ensure stability, resiliency, and cybersecurity of the NOTAM system.

This task force will be comprised of key aviation stakeholders, including airline pilots, air traffic controllers, air carriers, and aviation safety and computer system experts, among others.

This bill is an important step in a series of efforts Congress and the FAA will undergo to modernize the NOTAM system. Later this week, the chair and I and other Members of this body will be briefed by the FAA Acting Administrator on the status of the preliminary investigation into the NOTAM outage, how the FAA is responding to the incident, and issues that Congress should be considering to further strengthen the NOTAM system.

Fortunately, we are due for an FAA reauthorization bill this year, giving us an opportunity to build upon the 2018 law and further implement any necessary improvements to safeguard the NAS from similar system outages.

The task force created under this bill will play an important role in the FAA's ongoing NOTAM modernization initiative to ensure pilots, flight crews, and other airspace users receive NOTAMs that are timely, relevant, and accurate.

There can be no compromises when it comes to safety in the national airspace.

As demand for air travel begins to meet and even exceed prepandemic levels, this bill will help the FAA and the U.S. aviation industry implement best practices to improve the safety of the traveling public and the U.S. aviation workforce.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of my bipartisan legislation that improves the safety of air travel. I also thank my colleague, Mr. DESAULNIER, for his support and leadership on this legislation, as well.

In 2022, the United States was home to 8 of the top 10 busiest airports in the world. This means that, as Americans, we have no room for error when it comes to aviation safety.

Although aviation is the safest form of travel, we must always strive to be better. This is why we must address the notice to air missions, or NOTAMs, system.

NOTAMs provide current, up-to-the-minute data to pilots on any aspect of their flight. Unfortunately, NOTAMs are often buried in lengthy reports, conflating important safety information with more common alerts. These inefficiencies have the potential to create life-threatening situations, which have just been mentioned.

On January 11, 2023, all U.S. domestic flights were grounded for the first time since 9/11. The latest reports from the FAA suggest that the unintentional deletion of files caused this chaos.

□ 1300

No one person or one file should be able to take down our whole flight safety system, but the NOTAM system is old and antiquated so it comes as no real surprise.

Unfortunately, leadership at the Department of Transportation is more concerned with woke politics and changing the name of the system, rather than appropriate upgrades for aviation safety.

Mr. Speaker, I have been advocating for NOTAM upgrades for 4 years now. My legislation, which creates a task force at the FAA with important input from safety experts and industry professionals to address both efficiency and resiliency of the NOTAM system, has passed out of the House both in the

116th Congress and in the 117th Congress in a bipartisan fashion, only to die in the Senate.

I encourage my colleagues in both the House and the Senate to pass my legislation before another failure of the NOTAM system occurs. Our pilots, crew members, and passengers are counting on us.

Mr. Speaker, we do have a change in the 118th Congress. The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is being led by two of my friends. Chairman SAM GRAVES is ready, able, and willing to change how the committee works and actually bring forth legislation that is good for the American people and good for our transportation. I have full faith in my good friend, Ranking Member LARSEN to do the same. We have worked together in the past, and I see this committee succeeding with the leadership that I have previously seen by the chair and the ranking member.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER).

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I also thank my partner in this legislation and Chairman GRAVES for his positive comments.

As was mentioned, in 2017 an Air Canada plane at San Francisco International Airport got within 59 feet of crashing into four planes loaded with passengers, putting the lives of more than 1,000 people at risk, which would have been the greatest aviation disaster in American history. When the National Transportation Safety Board investigated, they found that the outdated NOTAM system was the largest part of the near disaster.

Since then, I and others have been working with the aviation industry, the FAA, the NTSB, and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to address the critical issues with NOTAMs. Updating them and making them more accessible to the people who use them is essential to the safety of the flying public and the confidence of the users.

Earlier this month, we learned what happens when there is an outage in the system: chaos and grounded flights.

In response to the Air Canada incident, I authored the Safe Landings Act, which would work to improve many aspects of aviation safety technology, including to the NOTAM system. With Members of both parties and the chair and ranking member, we have worked over the years to continue to hold the FAA accountable for the safety of passengers, crew, and aircraft.

In 2018, we included a requirement in the FAA reauthorization to speed up the modernization of the NOTAM system. Last year, more than 4 years after the provision passed into law, I led a letter with Ranking Member LARSEN to the FAA asking why the system was still outdated.

The mass flight cancellations that resulted from the outage further emphasized the need to make rigorous and immediate updates to the NOTAMs, and brought public awareness to this critical system.

I am proud to have worked with my colleague and friend from Minnesota on this bill in a bipartisan manner and look forward to protecting the safety of the flying public. With the creation of this task force, this will be accomplished.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES).

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 346, the NOTAM Improvement Act of 2023.

The FAA's Notice to Air System, NOTAM, which sends real-time alerts to pilots about safety conditions, experienced an outage with consequences so far-reaching that it led to nearly more than 10,000 flight delays and more than 1,300 flight cancellations.

Even though the cause of the outage bore no connection to a cyberattack, the breakdown in NOTAM alerts, nonetheless, raises concerns about the cyber vulnerabilities of the antiquated systems that underlie modern air travel.

At a time when cyberattacks are rising in both scope and sophistication, modernizing the cybersecurity of air travel must be a priority for the Federal Government. Mr. Speaker, 20th century air systems will no longer suffice in a world of 21st century cyber challenges.

That is why I wrote a letter calling upon both CISA and DOT to conduct a joint review of the cyber vulnerabilities of all aviation systems, including NOTAM. That is why I will proudly vote for bipartisan legislation requiring the FAA to establish a task force on NOTAM improvement.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, as the ranking member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I believe we have to do everything we can to ensure the U.S. remains the gold standard in aviation safety. That is why I support H.R. 346, as amended, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, in closing, H.R. 346, as amended, takes a very important step in ensuring that America's National Airspace System is going to remain intact, remain operational, and remain safe for the American people.

Again, I thank Mr. STAUBER and Mr. DESAULNIER for their work on this legislation. It is a good bill, and I urge all Members to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 346, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCACY IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2023

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 399) to clarify the primary functions and duties of the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 399

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Small Business Advocacy Improvements Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO PRIMARY FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES OF THE OFFICE OF AD- VOCACY OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.

(a) PRIMARY FUNCTIONS.—Section 202 of Public Law 94-305 (15 U.S.C. 634b) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting "and the international economy" after "economy";

(2) in paragraph (9), by striking "complete" and inserting "compete"; and

(3) in paragraph (12), by striking "serviced-disabled" and inserting "service-disabled".

(b) DUTIES.—Section 203(a) of Public Law 94-305 (15 U.S.C. 634c) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(7) represent the views and interests of small businesses before foreign governments and international entities for the purpose of contributing to regulatory and trade initiatives which may affect small businesses."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentleman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 399, better known as the Small Business Advocacy Improvements Act. The SBA Office of Advocacy is charged with looking out for the interests of small businesses across the entirety of the Federal Government. In many cases, this means calling out the negative impacts of reg-

ulations that are hurting small businesses or looking for inefficient rules that are preventing small businesses from competing for government contracts.

This legislation expands the SBA Office of Advocacy's mission to include advocating for small businesses on international trade issues. As our economy has become more and more intertwined with the rest of the world, overseas markets have become more accessible for small businesses.

However, when various regulations come out setting the rules of the road for trade agreements, small business voices can easily be drowned out. This bill solves this problem and ensures that Main Street America has someone fighting for their interests as international trade regulations are being created.

□ 1315

I thank my friend from Missouri for introducing this bill again in the 118th Congress and for always being a fierce advocate for our Nation's job creators.

Additionally, I hope that as this Congress progresses, we can continue to look for bipartisan ways to make the SBA Office of Advocacy more effective in helping our small businesses across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 399, the Small Business Advocacy Improvements Act of 2023.

Let me begin by welcoming the new chairman of the Small Business Committee (Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas).

The committee has a long tradition of setting partisan differences aside and working together on behalf of America's small businesses. I am glad we are off to a good start in the 118th Congress.

Today, we are considering three bills that overwhelmingly passed the House in the last Congress. As the chairwoman of the House Small Business Committee in the 117th Congress, I worked closely with my colleagues on the committee and stakeholders to craft dozens of bills that will increase access to capital, expand opportunities for free and low-cost counseling, and boost entrepreneurship. The three bills we are considering today are a product of that hard work, and I am hopeful that we will continue in the spirit of bipartisanship and focus on areas of agreement throughout the 118th Congress.

Turning to our first bill, the Office of Advocacy was established in 1976 to be an independent voice for small businesses within the Federal Government and is tasked with representing the views of small businesses before Congress, the White House, and other Federal agencies.

To that end, the office has regional advocates on the ground that provide

outreach to small businesses, local chambers of commerce, and other associations to hear firsthand the concerns of small businesses. The office works closely with Federal agencies to elevate these concerns throughout the rulemaking process.

Over the years, their hard work has saved small businesses billions of dollars in regulatory costs while still accomplishing the important goals of the regulations. However, their charter does not specifically state that they have the authority to represent the views of small businesses before foreign governments and international entities.

H.R. 399 will simply clarify that the Office of Advocacy has the authority to examine international economic data and represent small businesses in international discussions, particularly in trade negotiations.

I thank Chairman WILLIAMS, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, and Mr. MFUME for their bipartisan work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with the ranking member to get some really good things done.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER), my dear friend and a great patriot.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 399, the Small Business Advocacy Improvements Act of 2023.

America's regulatory environment plays a huge role in the way small businesses operate. They don't have access to the teams of lawyers needed to navigate the maze of government red tape that currently exists, and they certainly don't have the resources to make their voices heard on the international stage. This bill, which is identical to the bill that passed the House in the 117th Congress, gives small businesses that voice.

Specifically, H.R. 399 gives the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy the authority to represent small business interests before foreign governments and international entities. That representation is critical as the government renews and negotiates trade agreements and international commerce.

I thank my colleague, Congressman TROY CARTER from Louisiana, for working with me in a bipartisan manner to improve the SBA's Office of Advocacy.

I thank Chairman WILLIAMS for helping bring this legislation forward and congratulate him on his new role as chairman of the Small Business Committee. As a proven champion for Main Street America, small businesses are in good hands with Chairman WILLIAMS at the helm.

Mr. Speaker, I recommend a "yes" vote on this bill that puts America's small businesses first.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives LUETKEMEYER, CARTER, and MFUME for their work on this bill that will give small businesses a strong voice in the international regulatory arena.

All too often, small businesses' views are drowned out by larger companies with sophisticated legal departments and armies of lobbyists. SBA's Office of Advocacy works tirelessly to ensure that small business interests are heard at all levels of government.

Now that the world is more connected, more and more small businesses are participating in the global economy. Looking ahead, they will need a strong voice advocating on their behalf in international discussions and trade negotiations.

The Office of Advocacy is ready, willing, and able to assume this responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the Small Business Advocacy Improvements Act.

Small businesses help make up the foundation of our country's economy, with over half of Americans owning or working for small businesses. As the driving force behind our economy, it is crucial that the government uplift them at every possible point.

This bill clarifies the function and duties of the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration to allow the Office of Advocacy to represent the views and interests of small businesses before foreign governments and international entities. This will allow American small businesses to be better represented in international markets and in negotiations with foreign entities.

Whether domestic or abroad, our small businesses deserve a seat at the table if discussions are going to affect the bottom line.

My district is an international hub. We have some of the most important and highest traffic ports in the United States. Louisiana businesses connect with diverse companies and international markets across the globe every day. This bill will ensure that small business owners have someone at the table fighting for them.

I will continue to do everything in my power to support American small businesses so they can better compete in the international market.

I thank our chair and Congressman LUETKEMEYER for working with me on this important bipartisan bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, small businesses are facing unprecedented economic headwinds. From broken supply chains to rising interest rates, many of these challenges are brand new for many businessowners.

I hope that we will be taking up meaningful legislation to help alleviate some of these large challenges, but in the meantime, we need to ensure small businesses have as many people fighting for them in Washington as possible.

H.R. 399 will allow Main Street to have one more voice looking out for their interests as trade regulations are being developed. This has the potential to open up new markets and expand their reach into the global economy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 399 the Small Business Advocacy Improvements Act of 2023, which classifies the primary function and duties of the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

Specifically, the bill would set requirements for the Small Business Administration to include research on how small firms contribute to the global economy.

H.R. 399 also requires the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration to represent the views and interests of small businesses before foreign governments and international entities to contribute to regulatory and trade initiatives that may affect small businesses.

According to the United States trade Representative, small firms, which account for two-thirds of all new jobs in recent decades, are the backbone of the American economy.

Small businesses make up 98 percent of all known U.S. exporters and indirectly support roughly four million jobs in local communities around the nation.

Residents in Houston take pride in their neighborhoods and places of business, and when faced with hardships—most notably Hurricane Harvey in 2017—they band together, resilient, and unwavering in their will to move forward.

Small businesses, especially minority owned businesses, face many challenges.

Nationwide, women and minorities start businesses at a much higher rate than their white and/or male counterparts, despite facing disproportionate amounts of obstacles while establishing and maintaining their ventures.

By enabling more women and minorities to start small businesses, we will see advancements in wealth and greater economic mobility.

According to a study by Next Street, research shows that self-employed business owners, specifically minority women in Houston, experience faster earning growth compared to employees who are compensated by salaries.

A study by the University of Georgia states that the buying power of African American,

Asian American, and Native American consumers has increased over the past 30 years to \$3 trillion in 2020, making up 17.2 percent of the nation's total buying power that year. (Based on data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, and other sources.)

I strongly support the Small Businesses Advocacy Improvements Act because it allows women and minorities who own small companies to express their interests and opinions in the on the global market.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 399 because of the significant effects its passage will on millions of small business owners around the nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 399.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MICROLOAN TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2023

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 449) to amend the Small Business Act to increase transparency, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 449

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Microloan Transparency and Accountability Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. PORTFOLIO RISK ANALYSIS OF MICROLOANS.

Section 7(m)(10) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(m)(10)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (F) as clauses (i) through (vi), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(2) by amending clause (iv), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

“(vi) the number, amount, and percentage of microloans made by intermediaries to small business concerns—

“(I) that went into default in the previous year; and

“(II) that were charged off in the previous year by such intermediaries;”;

(3) in clause (vi), as so redesignated, by striking “and” at the end;

(4) by redesignating subparagraph (G) as clause (viii), and adjusting the margin accordingly;

(5) by striking “On November 1, 1995,” and all that follows through “the following:” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on February 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives, and make available to the public on the website of the Administration, a report on the effectiveness of the microloan program during the fiscal year preceding the date of the report. Such report shall include—”;

(6) in subparagraph (A), as so designated, by inserting after clause (vi) the following new clauses:

“(vii) the number and type of enforcement actions taken by the Administrator against noncompliant intermediaries;

“(viii) an analysis of compliance by intermediaries with the credit availability requirements of paragraph (3)(E) for loans in an amount greater than \$20,000;

“(ix) the extent to which microloans are provided to small business concerns in rural areas;

“(x) the number of underserved borrowers, as defined by the Administration, participating in the microloan program;

“(xi) the average rate of interest for each microloan;

“(xii) the average amount of fees charged for each microloan;

“(xiii) the average size of each microloan, including—

“(I) the number of loans made in an amount greater than \$20,000; and

“(II) the average size and charge-off rate of such loans;

“(xiv) the subsidy cost to the Administration;

“(xv) the number and percentage of microloans that were made to refinance other loans;

“(xvi) the number and percentage of microloans made to new program participants and the number and percentage of microloans made to previous program participants;

“(xvii) the average amount of technical assistance grant monies spent on each loan; and”;

(7) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) PRIVACY.—Each report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall not contain any personally identifiable information of any borrower.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 449, the Microloan Transparency and Accountability Act.

When an entrepreneur wants to start a business, finding starting capital can be one of the hardest challenges there is. SBA's microloan program looks to solve this issue and provide capital to people who need help getting their businesses off the ground.

While this program is well intended, Congress currently doesn't have access to some key metrics that we need to evaluate the effectiveness of this program. For example, it would be very helpful to have a comprehensive review

of where the loans are being distributed to see if it is being utilized in many rural areas of the country. Additionally, we are currently left in the dark about the overall risk profile of the entirety of the program.

This bill would solve these problems by directing the SBA to do a comprehensive analysis to evaluate the effectiveness of this program.

The Microloan Transparency and Accountability Act will provide Congress with much-needed insight to make determinations on how to better optimize this program to assist small businesses.

I thank my colleague from Tennessee, who has advanced this bill for the last few Congresses, for his dedication to improving this program.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill before us today, H.R. 449, the Microloan Transparency and Accountability Act, which will improve SBA's data reporting with respect to the microloan program.

Congress created the microloan program in 1991 to make funds available to nonprofit, community-based lenders who, in turn, make small-dollar loans to eligible borrowers. Many of these borrowers are unable to get a traditional loan due to poor credit, no credit history, or a lack of business experience.

This program reaches various demographic groups that will otherwise not be served by the private sector or even the SBA's 7(a) program, especially businesses located in underserved communities.

In fact, in fiscal year 2021, the program delivered more than 4,500 loans to small businesses in these communities, totaling almost \$75 million. This fiscal year, the SBA estimates it will assist over 5,700 small businesses, supporting approximately 24,000 jobs.

The bill we are considering today will help Congress and the public better evaluate the program and its impact on underserved communities.

Despite the program's record of success, many participating intermediaries report being restricted in their lending activity as a result of numerous rules governing the program being outdated. The information received from these reports will assist Congress and the agency in developing policies to continue the strong performance of the program.

I applaud the bipartisanship shown by Mr. BURCHETT and Mr. KIM, the sponsors of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote “yes,” and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT), a great patriot who loves our country.

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ—I believe I got that right; I have been working on it for about 5 years—it is a pleasure being here with you all.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the great work you do. There is nobody, I think, better at the helm of the Small Business Committee than somebody who has actually taken a business and made it into something. That is very American and very cool, and I thank you for your friendship to me and my family.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 449, the Microloan Transparency and Accountability Act of 2023.

The Small Business Administration's microloan program helps America's entrepreneurs access capital to help their small businesses grow.

□ 1330

These loans are usually around \$13,000; \$13,000, the difference between them making it or not. That kind of money would go a long way for a lot of our mom-and-pop stores in the rural areas of East Tennessee that I am proud to represent, and in our inner cities, as well.

Unfortunately, the microloan program has a low participation rate, Mr. Speaker, among our rural businesses. My bill would increase transparency by requiring the Small Business Administration to report data about the program to Congress. This will help us better understand how the program is operating and what we can do to improve it.

Government programs that support small businesses shouldn't be full of waste, and they shouldn't neglect businesses simply because of their ZIP Code.

My bill will increase transparency and establish accountability at the Small Business Administration to ensure it is working on behalf the small businesses everywhere.

I thank my colleagues, especially my sponsor across the aisle who has been my friend for a few years here, for their support on this bipartisan, common-sense bill which passed the House in the 116th and 117th Congresses, and I look forward to seeing the Microloan Transparency and Accountability Act pass the House again today.

I also look forward to the Senate doing their work and taking this up, Mr. Speaker,

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. KIM).

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, during the last Congress, Mr. BURCHETT and I introduced this important bill as part of a two-bill microloan major impact package.

Together, these bills would increase the number of microloan lenders in our communities, increase access to capital, and ensure greater transparency around how taxpayer dollars are being spent by the SBA.

I look forward to continuing to work with the chairman and the ranking

member, as well as Congressman BURCHETT to again advance these pieces of legislation.

Today, I rise in support of the Microloan Transparency and Accountability Act, and I look forward to working with them to advance the Microloan Improvement Act in the 118th Congress, as well.

I have heard from a diverse range of businessowners across New Jersey's Third District about how just small increases in access to capital could make an enormous impact for them.

These businessowners aren't asking for the moon. Many of them are in communities that are underserved and may not have a credit history, extensive past business experience, or the luxury of coming from wealth, but they have a dream. They are entrepreneurial, and with a small investment, a microloan to get started in some cases, they can launch their business, chase their dreams, create jobs, and transform communities.

By passing this bill, we can help enhance microloans in rural areas and provide greater transparency to ensure we are using taxpayer dollars efficiently and effectively.

This bill will help make sure the SBA's microloan program is reaching those most in need, best serving America's small businessowners, and giving them a fair shot at success.

I thank Congressman BURCHETT for leading this effort and for the support of the Small Business Committee. I urge all of my colleagues to support small businesses across this country and vote "yes" on this bill.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This bill will greatly increase the publicly available information about the microloan program's performance and impact.

If we intend to continue to support the smallest of small businesses, especially women- and minority-owned businesses, we need to make sure the programs targeting them are operating at their best. That starts with improving the data and information available about where the loans are going, how affordable they are, and where the gaps in coverage are.

With more data, Congress will be able to monitor the program and identify areas for improvement.

I thank the gentlemen from Tennessee and New Jersey for their hard work and collaboration in bringing this bill to the floor today. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes," and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the microloan program which delivers capital assistance to the Nation's smallest businesses is an important lending tool at the SBA.

H.R. 449, the Microloan Transparency and Accountability Act, will deliver comprehensive data and information on the effectiveness of the program. I applaud all of the members for working on this important legislation in an effort to shine more light on how well the program is working.

From my State of Texas to both of the Nation's coasts, accessing capital remains a top challenge facing all small businesses. We must ensure these programs and tools are operating at a high level and delivering on the goals that Congress set for them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 449, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 449.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

INVESTING IN MAIN STREET ACT OF 2023

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 400) to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount that may be invested in small business investment companies.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 400

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Investing in Main Street Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. INVESTMENT IN SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT COMPANIES.

Section 302(b) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 682(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "5 percent" and inserting "15 percent"; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking "5 percent" and inserting "15 percent".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentleman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Small businesses are the engines of our economy. Over half of the country's payroll is made from small businesses, and when we work to find solutions to help these entities, we are strengthening the economic foundation of our country.

So before we start debating these bills, I thank our leadership team for recognizing the importance of small businesses and bringing these bills to the floor quickly so we can help build up Main Street America.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 400, better known as the Investing in Main Street Act.

Last Congress, the Subcommittee on Capital Access held a hearing on the small business investment company program, otherwise known as the SBIC program. During this hearing, our members heard from witnesses about how this program attracts private equity investments to small businesses to hire more people and expand their operations.

This is a self-sustaining program that supports our Nation's job creators without costing taxpayers any money. In order to expand on this success, H.R. 400 looks to increase the maximum allowable investments by SBICs from 5 percent to 15 percent of their excess capital to small businesses.

This change will allow for greater amounts of private equity dollars to go toward small businesses. Additionally, this will align the SBIC program to other financial regulations coming out of the OCC and will help jumpstart growth of small businesses across this country.

As we look for ways to continually improve on this program, this change will have an immediate impact for our jobs and our Nation's job creators.

I thank my colleagues from California and New York for, once again, introducing this bipartisan solution to expand successful programs that empower the private sector to invest in small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill before us today, H.R. 400, the Investing in Main Street Act of 2023.

The SBA's Small Business Investment Company program is a multi-billion-dollar investment program designed to bridge the gap between a small business owner's need for capital and traditional sources of financing. It achieves this purpose by partnering private and public investments in early-stage startup businesses.

It also gives America's small, high-growth companies an opportunity to fund and grow their innovative ideas and create jobs.

The success of this program can be seen with companies like Apple, Intel, and FedEx, which all received early stage financing from the SBICs.

In fiscal year 2021, the combined private capital and SBA-backed funds to-

taled \$34 billion, which was the highest in program history, and helped support more than 126,000 jobs. The number of financings to women-owned, minority-owned, and veteran-owned small businesses increased by 36 percent.

Yet, we can do more to ensure the program continues to meet demand.

The Investing in Main Street Act, introduced by my colleagues, Representatives CHU and GARBARINO, will strengthen and grow the SBIC program by allowing banks and Federal savings associations to invest up to 15 percent of their capital and surplus into SBICs.

This change brings the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 in line with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency's national bank charter percentage requirements. It will increase the investment capital available to SBICs and allow them to invest more in small businesses.

I applaud Representatives CHU and GARBARINO's continued work on this issue and this bill, and I ask all my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GARBARINO), a person who loves this country, and who understands Main Street America and small businesses.

Mr. GARBARINO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to share my support for H.R. 400, the Investing in Main Street Act of 2023, a bill which I am proud to co-lead with Congresswoman JUDY CHU.

I also thank the chairman and the ranking member for bringing this up today.

We often talk about small businesses being the backbone of the U.S. economy. It is not just a talking point, but a statement of fact. Small businesses are major contributors to our Nation's overall prosperity; and in my district on Long Island, small businesses are what fuels local economic growth.

As we face economic uncertainty due to inflation, labor shortages, and other ongoing challenges, we look to our small businesses to be leaders in the private sector and to help revitalize our communities.

For over 60 years, the SBIC program has injected capital into small businesses by allowing financial institutions or Federal savings associations to invest in SBICs up to 5 percent. But times change; programs need updating and, now more than ever, small businesses need access to additional capital.

The increase from 5 percent to 15 percent stipulated in this bill is a necessary reform that will help small businesses get back on their feet.

I thank my colleague, Congresswoman CHU, for her leadership on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU).

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my bill, H.R. 400, the Investing in Main Street Act, which would make commonsense changes to the small business investing laws to maximize the amount that banks may invest in SBA-certified small business investment companies or SBICs.

Even though banking rules allow financial institutions to invest up to 15 percent of their capital and surplus in SBICs, small business investing rules cap these same investments far lower, at just 5 percent.

The Investing in Main Street Act simply fixes this outdated inconsistency to allow banks to invest the full 15 percent in SBICs. Raising this cap will dramatically increase the amount of investment capital available to our country's small businesses for whom even small investments can mean so much.

Already, SBICs have helped companies like Costco, Apple, and Intel get off the ground back when they were just starting out; and SBICs fill a gap in the investment ecosystem and level the playing field for the smallest businesses which often face the highest barriers to securing investments from traditional private investors.

The nearly 300 certified SBICs in operation today have invested or committed \$38 billion in small businesses nationwide; and last year alone, SBICs provided \$7.9 billion in funding to over 1,200 small businesses and startups.

By raising the investment cap from 5 percent to 15 percent, we could potentially triple those numbers in the years to come. The growth will be especially important as America's entrepreneurship rates continue to soar as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic.

I thank Representative GARBARINO for his partnership on this legislation, and Chairman WILLIAMS and Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ for their strong support. I urge a "yes" vote on this bill.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member of the Small Business Committee for astute work on issues dealing with small businesses; Mr. WILLIAMS, a colleague from Texas; and the bipartisan sponsors of this legislation.

I have always said that small businesses are the backbone of the economic engine of America, so I rise in support of H.R. 400, the Investing in Main Street Act of 2023, for the wisdom of providing more investment in small businesses.

As a strong supporter of small businesses, I believe that this bill will improve the livelihood of many small

businesses that have continuously been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill is designed to release more capital investment into small businesses in America. If my colleagues have interacted with the small business community, that is one of the number one issues that they raise consistently.

The bill would allow certain banks and savings associations to invest more into small business investment companies by increasing the statutory cap from 5 percent to 15 percent—I can't even imagine the number 5 percent—and the growing amount of small businesses and the ones that really stayed the course in desperate times, which was COVID-19.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2020 had the highest total number of applications for new businesses by far compared to all other years. From 2019 to 2021, there was a 20 percent increase in the number of small businesses. The Kauffman Foundation says that the highest amount was among Blacks, Latinos, and immigrants.

People know that small businesses allow them to create jobs in their own neighborhoods and to build future conglomerates, but obviously, small businesses reported negative impacts due to COVID.

It is important for this bill to become law immediately. Pass it in the Senate and ensure that we have the opportunity to keep our small businesses from closing. When small businesses have ideas, we need to be able to give them the investment to focus on.

The Biden-Harris administration has laid the foundation and has helped create the conditions for businesses and job creation. We have had increasing job creation every month, but we do know that cities like New Orleans and Honolulu have seen the highest rate of small business closures. Other cities are right behind.

The fact that we can have a Small Business Administration that reforms and works with the Paycheck Protection Program, to improve that, if we had another circumstance like that that held up some of our small businesses, this investment is going to be a lifeline.

I am delighted to rise to support this legislation because, again, as I opened my remarks, small businesses are the economic engine of America and give women, minorities, and others the opportunity to build an economic engine.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 400, the Investing in Main Street Act of 2023, to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount that may be invested in small business investment companies.

As a strong supporter of small businesses, I believe that this bill will improve the livelihood of many small businesses that have continuously been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This bill is designed to release more capital investment into small businesses in America.

The bill would allow certain banks and savings associations to invest more into small business investment companies by increasing the statutory cap from 5 percent to 15 percent.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States saw a significant rise in small businesses.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2020 had the highest total number of applications for new businesses by far compared to all years that data was available.

From 2019 to 2021, there was a 20 percent increase in the number of small businesses created. That is more than double the average growth rate year to year.

According to the Kauffman Foundation, the increase in the rate of entrepreneurship during the pandemic was highest amongst Blacks, Latinos, and immigrants.

Even though there has been a significant rise in the number of small businesses during the pandemic, many businesses report negative impacts due to COVID.

In April 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau launched the Small Business Pulse Survey to produce data in real-time on the challenges small businesses were facing due to the pandemic.

When the first survey was collected in April of 2020, 90 percent of businesses surveyed stated that the pandemic had a negative effect on business.

When the last survey was collected in April of 2022, 70 percent of businesses surveyed stated that the pandemic had a negative effect on business.

Almost three years into the pandemic, small businesses are still struggling with getting back on their feet.

Cities such as New Orleans and Honolulu had some of the highest rates of small business closures in the country because their economies are largely built around serving visitors.

In large cities like San Francisco and Austin, the food industry was largely impacted because those who would typically eat out on their lunch break were now working from home.

The time for small business recovery is now.

The Biden-Harris administration has laid the foundation and has helped create the conditions for business and job creation.

With the evolution of almost 5.4 million small businesses in 2021, we must work to maintain and support these growing businesses.

The Biden-Harris administration partnered with the Small Business Administration (SBA) to reform the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). The policy changes targeted small business and companies that were left out of previous relief efforts.

The data shows that these PPP policy changes provided more support in minority communities than the rounds under the previous administration.

The Small Business Relief under the American Rescue Plan included targeted grant relief and tax credits for small businesses hit by the pandemic.

The Small Business Relief produced immediate relief to more than 600,000 of the hardest hit small businesses.

The Biden-Harris administration was able to provide more than 6 million small businesses with \$450 billion in emergency relief via the Small Business Administration.

Investing more in our small businesses has had a profound impact on the job market in the United States.

In the first three quarters of 2021, small businesses with 50 employees or less created almost 2 million jobs in the United States, the fastest start to small business job growth in any year on record.

Investing in main street should continue to be a priority for Congress.

Through this bipartisan bill, certain financial institutions would have the ability to invest more into small business investment companies by raising the statutory cap.

I urge my colleagues to join me and support this important legislation that will expand access to capital, increase the number of small businesses, and create jobs at home.

We must show the American public that improving the economy is a priority in Congress. This bill is a good first step at doing so.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, the SBIC program fills the gap between the availability of venture and private equity capital and the needs of small businesses in startup and growth situations.

For decades, this program has channeled capital to leading-edge, high-growth companies. Without it, some of the Nation's most successful corporations would not be the companies they are today.

H.R. 400 raises the investment cap for banks and Federal savings associations from 5 percent to 15 percent. This will lead to significant small business investment by SBICs, which will result in economic growth in our local communities and job creation.

I applaud Ms. CHU and Mr. GARBARINO for their bipartisan work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to vote "yes," and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, the SBIC program has delivered for small businesses for many years. It is time we update the program to match other Federal rules and ensure the program continues to serve our communities in the future. This is a commonsense step to increase the amount of investment that an SBIC can receive.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 400, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 400.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays. The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

COMMENDING THE BRAVERY, COURAGE, AND RESOLVE OF THE WOMEN AND MEN OF IRAN DEMONSTRATING IN MORE THAN 133 CITIES AND RISKING THEIR SAFETY TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST THE IRANIAN REGIME'S HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 7) commending the bravery, courage, and resolve of the women and men of Iran demonstrating in more than 133 cities and risking their safety to speak out against the Iranian regime's human rights abuses, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution, as amended, is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 7

Whereas, on September 16, 2022, 22-year-old Mahsa Amini passed away in the custody of Iranian "morality police" following a 3-day coma due to wounds, including bone fracture, hemorrhage, and cerebral edema consistent with severe beating, inflicted by the police for purportedly wearing a hijab improperly;

Whereas, on September 16, Iranians gathered in the streets of Tehran to protest the killing of Mahsa Amini;

Whereas demonstrations have since spread to more than 133 cities and 130 universities in Iran, where women are removing or burning hijabs, cutting their hair, and dancing in front of Iranian security forces, joined by their fellow Iranian citizens;

Whereas Iranian security forces have responded to such demonstrations with violence and detentions, including detentions of journalists and activists for covering the protests;

Whereas the security forces have reportedly killed more than 450 protestors, including at least 58 children; however, the number of injuries and deaths is likely higher but unobtainable due to internet blackouts;

Whereas at least 18,000 Iranians have been arrested across Iran according to official sources, and many thousands more have been detained according to independent reports;

Whereas videos, images, and demonstrations have spread to social media platforms and are an important way for the voices of the Iranian people to be heard;

Whereas internet monitoring groups have reported that the Iranian regime has—

(1) caused near-total disruption of internet connectivity in parts of Iran and partial disruptions in city centers; and

(2) blocked WhatsApp, Twitter, Telegram, Facebook, Instagram, and video games with chat functions;

Whereas common protest chants include—

(1) "Women, life, and freedom!";

(2) "Iranians die but will not be suppressed!"; and

(3) "Death to the dictator Ayatollah Ali Khamenei!";

Whereas the Iranian regime has a long history of structural and legal discrimination against women, including barriers for women seeking justice against domestic violence and criminal prohibitions against women singing or showing hair in public and studying certain technical subjects;

Whereas the Iranian regime approved of "depriving one social right or more" for any woman who posts an unveiled picture of herself on social media, and, in August 2022, approved of enforcing mandatory hijab laws through facial recognition;

Whereas, through misogynistic criminal statutes, the Iranian regime for decades has detained and engaged in the ongoing persecution of women, including—

(1) Saba Kord Afshari, who was sentenced to 15 years in prison for posting videos to social media without a hijab and transferred into Ward 6 of the notorious Qarchak Women's Prison, identified by the Secretary of the Treasury for gross violations of human rights;

(2) Yasaman Aryani, her mother Monireh Arabshahi, and Mojgan Keshavarz, who were sentenced to serve five and a half years in prison for posting a video for International Women's Day in 2019, during which they walked without headscarves through a metro train in Tehran, handing flowers to female passengers;

(3) human rights attorney Nasrin Sotoudeh, who was sentenced in 2019 to 38 years in prison and 148 lashes for providing legal defense services to women charged with not wearing a hijab;

(4) Narges Mohammadi, a prominent rights advocate, who—

(A) was arrested in November 2021 on the second anniversary of countrywide protests and is currently serving a 2-year sentence in prison;

(B) was handed a further sentence of 15 months imprisonment for "propaganda against the state"; and

(C) previously, had been sentenced to 10 years in prison in May 2015 for "establishing an illegal group", "assembly and collusion to act against national security", and "propaganda against the state";

(5) former Vice President for Women and Family Affairs Shahindokht Molaverdi, who was charged with encouraging "corruption, prostitution, and sexual deviance", a common charge against women refusing mandatory hijab laws, and sentenced in December 2020 to 30 months in prison for defending the right of women to attend sporting events and criticizing the practice of child marriage;

(6) six women who were sentenced by the Culture and Media Court of Tehran in July 2022 to each serve 1 year in prison for the offense of singing songs in public;

(7) Niloofar Hamed, one of the first Iranian journalists to report on Mahsa Amini's death, who was arrested on September 22, 2022, and is being held in solitary confinement; and

(8) countless other women; and

Whereas peaceful protests in Iran over the last year have focused on grievances that include—

(1) mismanagement of the economy and national resources;

(2) prioritization of funding for terror groups and pariah regimes over social services for the people of Iran; and

(3) widespread political corruption: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) condemns—

(A) the brutal beating and death of Mahsa Amini; and

(B) the violent suppression by the Iranian regime of women and men participating in the current demonstrations, including children, and calls for transparent accountability for all killings of protestors by Iranian security forces;

(2) supports the women and men of Iran who are—

(A) participating in the current protests to defend their fundamental human rights; and

(B) risking their safety to speak out against the human rights abuses committed by the Iranian regime;

(3) supports internet freedom programs that circumvent the regime and provide support for VPNs and other alternatives that

can be used to bypass attempts by authoritarian governments to censor internet access during times of protest, and commends private entities willing to provide programs to circumvent such censorship;

(4) encourages continued efforts by the Biden Administration to respond to the protests, including the recent sanctioning of the Iranian morality police, and further encourages the Biden Administration—

(A) to immediately impose, under existing authorities, additional human rights sanctions on officials and entities responsible for the repression of the current protests;

(B) to prioritize efforts to expand unrestricted internet access in Iran, consistent with existing law; and

(C) to work to develop a strategy to prevent the Iranian regime from obtaining and exploiting facial recognition data and software for the use of mass surveillance and enforcement of mandatory hijab;

(5) encourages the private sector, following the recent clarification by the Biden Administration of sanctions exemptions on communications technology, to work with the Biden Administration to ensure protestors and activists have access to tools needed to circumvent government surveillance and repression; and

(6) welcomes the efforts of the international community to support protestors in Iran, and calls on the international community—

(A) to publicly condemn violence by the Iranian regime against peaceful protestors;

(B) to speak out against violations by the regime of fundamental human rights, including the freedom of expression, assembly, and redress of grievances of the Iranian people; and

(C) to impose human rights sanctions on officials and entities that are responsible for the repression of current protests and involved in violating the human rights of the Iranian people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today, we consider an urgent bipartisan concurrent resolution condemning the Iranian regime for its gross human rights abuses against protestors in Iran, who are bravely speaking out and standing up to this terrorist regime after being brutally silenced for two generations.

I thank my Democratic co-lead, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and House Foreign Affairs Committee Chair McCAUL for their support of this resolution.

While I was disappointed we were not able to get this resolution to the floor last Congress when I partnered with former Congressman MALINOWSKI, I am grateful that this resolution is now

being brought up for a vote so quickly in our new Congress and with such broad bipartisan support.

Whether it be China, Iran, or Russia, this new House Republican majority is ready and willing to stand up to our adversaries and protect America's vitally important national security interests.

Since the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini while in the custody of Iran's religious police in September of last year, the Iranian people have boldly taken to the streets to demand justice. Now, almost 4½ months later, Iranian men, women, and children continue to protest the regime and its cruelty, despite the immense risk to themselves and their families. They are literally risking their lives for a just cause greater than themselves.

These demonstrations are the most significant popular protests against the brutal regime's authoritarian rule since it came to power in 1979. The response from the regime has been vicious, violent, and vindictive, not surprisingly.

Hundreds of protesters have been murdered by regime security forces. Thousands more have been detained on trumped-up charges. Many of those in custody, especially women, have been subject to cruel and inhumane torture.

The regime has unjustly executed Iranian protesters in sham trials that lack any modicum of due process. Many dozens more face the imminent possibility of execution.

The brave Iranian people are not backing down. In fact, they are more resolved than ever. They are demanding a government that respects their rights at home, stops funding terrorism abroad, and makes peace with its neighbors. They are demanding a future built on freedom, justice, the rule of law, and a chance at prosperity.

It is vital that we, the U.S. Representatives, a body that is among the greatest symbols of freedom and democracy around the world, stand with one voice to affirm our support for the brave Iranian people.

The resolution we are considering today does just this. It reaffirms our resounding support for the brave Iranians who continue to put their lives on the line to secure their fundamental rights and freedoms.

The resolution is a call to action. It urges the Biden administration to do more. Instead of negotiating with this brutal regime at a moment of weakness and true vulnerability, the Biden administration must meet the moment and do everything in its power to stand with the Iranian people. It must sanction those responsible for these brutal killings. It must do everything it can to counter the Iranian regime's cowardly attempts to restrict internet access that prevents its citizens from sharing images and videos and communicating with the outside world.

We have the power to give the Iranian people the voice they need to tell the truth about their oppression at the

hands of the Ayatollah, and we must exercise it.

Finally, the Biden administration must lead the effort to press our allies and partners around the world to designate the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a terrorist organization. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps uses terror to silence Iranian citizens at home and targets innocent citizens abroad.

The United States rightly designated the group a Foreign Terrorist Organization in 2019. Now, the rest of the world must join in this noble cause. The IRGC's reign of terror must come to an end.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution says loudly, clearly, and with a strong bipartisan voice that the American people are on the side of the courageous Iranian people. The U.S. House of Representatives condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the regime's horrific violence.

Finally, as we recognize the bravery of the protesters in Iran, I also want to take a moment to remember that we have American citizens being held hostage in Iran today. These innocent American citizens have endured years of false allegations, wretched conditions, and separation from their loved ones simply because they are Americans. They must all be released. No American can be left behind.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the 60 Members who have cosponsored this resolution, and I urge the entire House to support its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. Let me first thank Representative TENNEY and former Representative MALINOWSKI for their hard work on this bill. We wanted so much to get it done in the last Congress, but it is important that it is one of the first things that we get done in the 118th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, last year, the world held their breath as Iranian women took to the streets protesting the devastating murder of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who was detained for allegedly violating the Islamic Republic's strict dress code. The world thought maybe, just maybe, the regime would be ushered by their own people into the dustbin of history.

The protests quickly escalated into calls for the overthrow of Iran's theocracy and posed one of the most serious challenges to the ruling clerics since the 1979 revolution that brought them to power.

Although today the protests have slowed some, and the regime remains firmly in place, something has changed. The Iranian people have a new understanding of their power. Despite bullets, despite arrests and the threat of execution, they have persisted. Cracks have been formed within the Iranian leadership elite.

The regime is not willing to meet the people's demands, and the people are not willing to accept the status quo forever. This is going to be a long, drawn-out domestic conflict.

The Supreme Leader is a corrupt old man who has stolen from and killed his own people for decades. The Iranian people know it. The Iranian President has not delivered on any of his promises and has left the Iranian economy in tatters through mismanagement, corruption, and international pressure. And guess what? The Iranian people know it.

It will not be instant, and it will not be easy, but change will come. Brighter days await the Iranian people.

□ 1400

The Iranian people, and also this regime know, it is only a matter of time. This resolution commends the bravery, the courage, and the resolve of the women and men of Iran who have participated in the protests to defend their human rights, their dignity, at the risk of their own safety to speak out against the horrific abuses committed by the Iranian regime.

It asks the Biden administration to continue its important work to support the people of Iran, as well as encourages the private sector to do even more to help Iranians to communicate with one another in a safe manner.

Also, this resolution before us today sends a clear message to the Iranian people that we in the United States Congress and the millions of Americans that we represent stand with them in their time of struggle for freedom. We want the Iranian people to know that we see you. We know the risk you are taking and the danger that you face. Stay strong. Stay strong, as freedom will always win over tyranny.

Mr. Speaker, we want the Iranian people to hear our voices. We want the world to hear our voices that the United States of America, in a bipartisan way—I know it is bicameral—and people all across this country stand with those brave people.

It reminds me of struggles of others when they had to fight for their freedom in the streets. Freedom will come in the morning because the voices of the people cannot be deterred.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. MEEKS for his support, which I greatly appreciate.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. MILLER).

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear friend and colleague, Ms. TENNEY, for yielding and for her leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 7. Today, the United States House of Representatives stands up for human rights, for the same freedoms that we as Americans hold so near and dear in our own country and against the brutal regime in Iran.

The Iranian Government has a long track record of vile human rights

abuses. Notably, they are the largest state sponsor of terrorism in the world, not just against the United States, but also against countries such as our own democratic ally in the Middle East, Israel.

In September, the senseless murder of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini at the hands of the so-called morality police for wearing her hijab improperly once again put the regime's human rights record front and center for the world to see.

Now, as the Iranian people protest in the streets of more than 133 cities across the country, demanding basic human rights, the regime's response is to crack down even harder. Since the protests broke out in September, more than 450 have been killed, including 58 children. At least another 18,000 were arrested.

This is reprehensible, unacceptable, and inexcusable. No government should ever treat its people this way.

The United States must continue to support the Iranian people in their struggle for freedom. The Biden administration should take a strong stand and end its quest for a new Iran nuclear deal. Great American companies, like Starlink, should help bring much-needed internet access to those protesting in the streets, which will significantly increase their communication and information sharing.

That is why I am proud to stand here on the floor of the House of Representatives today and support H. Con. Res. 7.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the brave women and men in Iran who are risking their lives to speak out against the Iranian regime's human rights abuses.

Today marks 131 days of ongoing protests in Iran. It has been 131 days since Mahsa Amini was laid to rest after being harassed, arrested, and ultimately killed by Iran's so-called morality police for simply wearing her hijab incorrectly.

Since her murder, the people of Iran—women and men alike—have taken to the streets in more than 133 cities across the country to demand their basic rights and freedoms be respected.

For nearly 19 weeks, protesters have gone out into the streets making their voices heard and demanding to be treated with dignity. But instead of listening, the Iranian regime is brutally cracking down on its own citizens, gunning down protesters, arresting people en masse, and resorting to torture and sexual violence.

Since the protests began, human rights activists in Iran have reported that nearly 20,000 people have been detained and more than 500 people have been killed, including children.

What is more, the Iranian regime has also executed four protesters, with many more being sentenced for crimes that carry the death penalty. These

brutal human rights abuses must stop immediately.

The international community must stand with the Iranian people and against this violent suppression.

The Iranian regime must stop supporting Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine, stop spreading terror across the region, and start listening to its own people.

Today, the House is coming together to condemn unequivocally the Iranian regime's brutality and to express support for the Iranian people. Their bravery in the face of suffocating repression and increased impunity is inspiring the world and deserves our respect and strong support. They must know America stands with them.

Mr. Speaker, I will end by applauding the Biden administration for working with our allies and our partners to hold the regime accountable for the human rights abuses by imposing sanctions on Iranian officials deemed responsible for the violent crackdown on peaceful protesters.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to continuing our bipartisan work to advance the cause of human rights in Iran.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, while I am pleased at the bipartisan support of this resolution, I think it is important to reinforce that there can be no legitimacy or lifeline for this inhumane regime; that means no sanctions relief or nuclear negotiations.

Just a few months ago, the Biden administration was actively negotiating sanctions relief as part of a new nuclear deal with a regime that is detaining, torturing, and killing its own citizens.

Let me be clear, Iran did not comply with the last nuclear deal. Why would they comply with a new deal?

The only thing a new nuclear deal could accomplish is giving the autocratic regime more resources to attack its own people.

Mr. Speaker, I implore the Biden administration to not resume these foolhardy efforts. We do not negotiate with terrorists, and the Ayatollah and his regime are terrorists. They use fear, violence, and intimidation to achieve political goals.

We must return to a position of firm pressure and strong resolve while enhancing our deterrence in the region. Until this regime changes its behavior, it must remain under pressure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING).

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 7, a bipartisan resolution supporting the brave women and men peacefully protesting for their rights and freedom in Iran.

Fundamental human rights are under attack in Iran. It has been nearly 4 months since the death of 22-year-old

Mahsa Amini in the custody of Iran's so-called morality police for allegedly wearing her headscarf incorrectly.

Since then, thousands of Iranians have peacefully protested the regime, calling for their basic rights and freedoms to be respected. Young women and girls have been horribly beaten for protesting a repressive, authoritarian government that controls how they dress and act in public.

In response to these demonstrations, Iran's security forces have reportedly used live ammunition and tear gas against the protesters, and horrifically, have killed more than 500 people, including at least 70 children.

It is clear Iran has no problem sentencing their own people to death simply for joining demonstrations. They are willing to do almost anything to maintain their grip and control.

The United States must stand unified against the oppressive Iranian regime and stand up for the Iranian people, whose basic human rights are being violated. The Iranian people deserve justice and accountability.

That is why I recently led a bipartisan letter, with my friend and colleague, JOE WILSON, calling for the United Nations to take urgent action to hold Iran accountable for its human rights abuses. Following our bipartisan effort, I was glad that the U.S. and 43 other countries supported our call for a U.N. special session on Iran.

At that special session, the U.N. Human Rights Council voted to establish an independent investigative mechanism into Iran's brutal use of force and grave human rights abuses.

Today, the bipartisan resolution we are all voting on will also help shine a light on Iran's human rights abuses. It makes clear that the United States stands with the people of Iran, that we are watching closely, and that all Iranians, including young women and girls, are entitled to the same human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I am voting "yes" on this resolution today, and I encourage all my colleagues to join with me.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to point out that this is a bipartisan bill in which we are working together. Just last week, the Biden administration hit Iran with fresh new sanctions.

Not only did he do that individually, as he has been doing throughout the world, but he is bringing others together so that we can speak with one voice. Of course, the European Union was a part of it. Of course, he brought along other countries so that the world is speaking with one voice, collectively, keeping us together.

As things go on, we are continually ratcheting it up so that the people of Iran can get their freedom. In fact, the only thing that was somewhat changed and was done in this bill is where it encouraged the private sector, following

the recent clarification by the Biden administration of sanction exemptions or communication technology, to work with the Biden administration to ensure protesters and activists have access to tools needed to circumvent government surveillance and repression.

The only thing that was eased some, so that we can make sure we are communicating and allowing the Iranian people to communicate with others as they protest, is what is in this bill. I think, in a bipartisan way, we agree with that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member and I thank Ms. TENNEY for her leadership on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in the name of Iranian freedom. Freedom now for Iran and the Iranian people.

This legislation is brave, as it speaks clearly in a clear tone without fear for the courageous persons who have gone to the streets, not regarding their life or the lives of their families. I call them brave, courageous, resolved freedom fighters, fighting for their very life.

This legislation is absolutely necessary, and it is, of course, bipartisan. I thank Mr. MEEKS for indicating the strength of the Biden administration and the sanctions that have been offered, and the manner in which the Biden administration, Democrats, and Republicans have said to Iran: No nonsense. No nonsense, and certainly no nuclear capacity.

□ 1415

Anything that we have to do to ensure that that does not happen should not be tabled. But what should be tabled is the unbelievable brutal fighting and killing that has occurred against freedom-loving people.

I have been a longtime fighter with the people of Iran who are here in the United States. Iranian Americans have taken to the streets to be able to say: No more.

We will stand with our brothers and sisters in Iran.

I have seen the various attacks that have resulted in mass killings. I have seen the fight in Camp Ashraf in Iraq where there has been a large loss of life of people who have been fighting for freedom. I went to the camp to see the devastation.

I have supported plans for democracy in Iran. I understand that they need us to stand by them.

What a horrible and brutal scene that we have seen: children falling dead, mothers, brothers, fathers, and uncles. What about Mahsa Amini?

She was just 22 years old, wanting her life to be before her, seeking democracy and freedom. She was a young, bright woman with courage that was taken away viciously in an ugly attempt to show how domineering this regime is. In the course of taking her away, her life was snuffed out.

We don't know her last hours, last days, last minutes, or last seconds. We don't know how brutal it might have been, how she might have cried out for someone to be able to be empathetic and sympathetic, someone to understand that her life deserved an opportunity to live, and yet this brutal regime continues to be without concern for anything that it does.

I want to say to all of the Iranian women, men, and children protesters who are leading the fight, I say loudly and clearly that we are standing with you.

I support this legislation entirely, and I want to continue the U.S.-Iran friendship with those people who are fighting for freedom.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Ohio). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman from Texas an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me conclude my remarks by saying I support Iranian women struggling against dictatorship.

Let me continue to say that I want this relationship between the U.S. and Iran to continue with the Iranian people who are fighting for democracy. I believe it is important that this legislation pass to show that America is a champion for global democracy.

I would like to also indicate that I look forward to organizing the Iranian women's struggle against dictators congressional caucus, and I hope there will be many who will join us. Let us keep our voices alive.

I rise again to support H. Con. Res. 7. I thank the gentleman from New York for his leadership, and I thank the sponsors of this legislation for their leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 7, a resolution that commends the bravery, courage, and resolve of the women and men of Iran protesting and speaking out against the Iranian Regime's human rights abuses.

As a long-time advocate and fighter for justice and equality, I am inspired by the millions of Iranians that are putting their lives on the line day after day in hopes that one day they will live in a country that values justice, freedom, and the rule of law.

The U.S. Department of State cites Iran for a wide range of human rights violations; among them injustices such as arbitrary arrest, torture, and unjust executions.

I remember the attack on Iranian refugees at Camp Ashraf by Iraqi soldiers on April 3, 2011.

Camp Ashraf was the home to more than 3,000 members of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI), an opposition group against the Iranian regime.

I went to Camp Ashraf in solidarity and support of the democracy and freedom loving Iranian people and that support continues to this day.

In July 2019, I penned a letter to President Maryam Rajavi to commemorate the occasion of the Annual Gathering for a Free Iran and to extend my heartfelt congratulations on her election.

I expressed my support for her 10-Point Plan for the future of Iran, which ensures freedom of parties and assembly, an abolition of the death penalty, a separation of church and state, gender equality and several other promising policy positions that will thrust Iran into the future.

Under President Maryam Rajavi's leadership, women have risen to hold pivotal positions in the Iranian Resistance.

Iranian women will be the engine for change in Iran.

The uprising in Iran started with the murder of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman arrested by morality police in Tehran on September 13, 2022, for allegedly violating Iran's strict rules requiring women to cover their hair with a hijab, or headscarf.

Since the day of Mahsa Amini's funeral, women, men, and children have taken to the streets, risking their lives for a free and democratic Iran.

It is estimated that since the start of the protests in September, over 500 protesters have been killed, and thousands more arrested.

To all the Iranian women, men, children, and protestors who are leading the fight, I say loud and clear that I stand with you. America stands with you.

I am proud to support the women of Iran, the youth, and the brave men and women who are struggling to make these freedoms possible for the people of their nation.

Let us continue to foster U.S.-Iran friendship and collaboration as we work together to advance the universal rights of all humans, including basic respect for human rights and the rule of law.

The mountaintop of justice for women, for men, for children and for all Iran is on the horizon.

I will always champion global democracy, stand against human rights violations, and never shy away from speaking truth to power in the presence of oppression.

That is why I encourage my colleagues to work toward putting human rights at the center of America's diplomacy by supporting H. Con. Res. 7.

Together, we will put an end to the indiscriminate violation of human rights in Iran.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas for her strong compassion for these horrific situations in Iran and for the women of Iran.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES).

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution.

Iran is the leading aggressor in the Middle East, the leading state sponsor of terrorism in the world, and a long-standing oppressor of its own people.

The Iranian regime, which has repressed far too many for far too long, has been shaken to the core by a revolution led by powerful women. The women in Iran who are risking their lives in confronting a monstrous and murderous regime are among the most courageous freedom fighters in the world.

The United States must stand unequivocally with our Iranian sisters in their fearless fight for freedom.

On September 13, 2021, Mahsa Amini was brutally beaten to death by Iran's Orwellian morality police merely for not wearing a head covering. Out of the tragedy of Mahsa's murder came a spontaneous groundswell of thousands of Iranian women rising up for their freedom, some removing their head coverings and cutting their hair as a poignant form of protest.

The revolution reminds us that the future of Iran does not belong to a regime whose malevolence and obsolescence have become too glaring to ignore.

Iran's future belongs to its people led by its fearless formidable female freedom fighters. The vision of a free and democratic Iran is an unrealized dream whose time has come and whose realization is long overdue.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York also for his compassionate remarks in support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, H. Con. Res. 7 commends the brave people—the brave Iranian freedom fighters—for their fight against the brutal Iranian regime and demonstrates that the United States' commitment is with them, standing with the men and women of Iran.

In the face of so many human rights abuses, the Iranian people have remained strong.

I say to our Iranian friends: Though change won't happen overnight, continue to stand strong because the time of this regime will soon be up.

The international community recognizes—and that is us pulling together, all of the people of the United States and the international community around the world—the bravery and the strength of the Iranian people in the fight for their human rights, for their freedom from tyranny, and for a better tomorrow.

We have got to keep our voices.

Dr. King once said that injustice everywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

We have got to stand together, and that is what this resolution does. It puts the regime on notice that its people are on the march because freedom cannot be denied.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am sure that there will be a resounding voice by this United States Congress by passing this bill to say to the Iranian people who put everything on the line that we hear you, we see you, and we stand with you until you get your freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Speaker MCCARTHY, Majority Leader SCALISE, Whip EMMER, and the new chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. MCCAUL, for prioritizing this im-

portant resolution and bringing it to the floor.

The fact is that this resolution was brought to the floor so quickly this week because the House majority demonstrates the importance of this issue.

I want to thank Mr. MEEKS for his continued support and help in ushering through unanimous support for this resolution in the last Congress. We are finally here getting it through, and I am grateful to the gentleman for his leadership and also for being so supportive.

Again, I thank Mr. GOTTHEIMER, especially, and Mr. MCCAUL for cosponsoring this resolution with me and all the speakers and everyone who have spoken in support of this resolution. It is important that we stand as a united voice against the Iranian regime and in support of the people of Iran.

I say to the people of Iran: We commend your bravery, we mourn your losses, and the American people are with you as you stand up for freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 7, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on the question will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ESTES) at 4 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules with respect to the following measures:

H.R. 346;

H.R. 400; and

H. Con. Res. 7.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining elec-

tronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

NOTAM IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 346) to establish a task force on improvements for notices to air missions, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 424, nays 4, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 34]

YEAS—424

Adams	Ciscomani	Franklin, C.
Aderholt	Clark (MA)	Scott
Aguilar	Clarke (NY)	Frost
Alford	Cleaver	Fry
Allen	Cline	Fulcher
Allred	Cloud	Gaetz
Amodei	Clyburn	Gallagher
Armstrong	Clyde	Gallego
Arrington	Cohen	Garamendi
Auchincloss	Cole	Garbarino
Babin	Collins	Garcia (TX)
Bacon	Comer	Garcia, Mike
Baird	Connolly	Garcia, Robert
Balderson	Correa	Gimenez
Balint	Costa	Golden (ME)
Banks	Courtney	Goldman (NY)
Barr	Craig	Gomez
Barragán	Crane	Gonzales, Tony
Bean (FL)	Crawford	Gonzalez,
Beatty	Crenshaw	Vicente
Bentz	Crockett	Good (VA)
Bera	Crow	Gooden (TX)
Bergman	Cuellar	Gosar
Beyer	Curtis	Gottheimer
Bice	D'Esposito	Granger
Bilirakis	Davidson	Graves (LA)
Bishop (GA)	Davis (IL)	Graves (MO)
Bishop (NC)	Davis (NC)	Green (TN)
Blumenauer	De La Cruz	Green (TX)
Blunt Rochester	Dean (PA)	Greene (GA)
Boebert	DeGette	Griffith
Bost	DeLauro	Grijalva
Bowman	DelBene	Grothman
Boyle (PA)	Deluzio	Guest
Brecheen	DeSaulnier	Guthrie
Brown	DesJarlais	Hageman
Brownley	Diaz-Balart	Harder (CA)
Buchanan	Dingell	Harris
Buck	Doggett	Harshbarger
Bucshon	Donalds	Hayes
Budzinski	Duarte	Hern
Burchett	Duncan	Higgins (LA)
Burgess	Dunn (FL)	Higgins (NY)
Bush	Edwards	Hill
Calvert	Ellzey	Himes
Cammack	Emmer	Hinson
Caraveo	Escobar	Horsford
Carbajal	Espallat	Houchin
Cárdenas	Estes	Houlihan
Carey	Evans	Hoyer
Carl	Ezell	Hoyle (OR)
Carson	Fallon	Hudson
Carter (GA)	Feenstra	Huffman
Carter (LA)	Ferguson	Huizenga
Carter (TX)	Finstad	Hunt
Cartwright	Fischbach	Issa
Casar	Fitzgerald	Ivey
Case	Fitzpatrick	Jackson (IL)
Casten	Fleischmann	Jackson (NC)
Castor (FL)	Fletcher	Jackson (TX)
Castro (TX)	Flood	Jackson Lee
Chavez-DeRemer	Foster	Jacobs
Cherfilus-	Foushee	James
McCormick	Fox	Jayapal
Chu	Frankel, Lois	Jeffries
Cicilline		Johnson (GA)

Johnson (LA) Molinaro
 Johnson (OH) Moolenaar
 Johnson (SD) Mooney
 Jordan Moore (AL)
 Joyce (OH) Moore (UT)
 Joyce (PA) Moore (WI)
 Kamlager-Dove Moran
 Kaptur Morelle
 Kean (NJ) Moskowitz
 Keating Moulton
 Kelly (IL) Mrvan
 Kelly (MS) Murphy
 Kelly (PA) Nadler
 Khanna Napolitano
 Kiggans (VA) Neal
 Kildee Neguse
 Kiley Nehls
 Kilmer Newhouse
 Kim (CA) Nickel
 Kim (NJ) Norcross
 Krishnamoorthi Norman
 Kuster Nunn (IA)
 Kustoff Obernolte
 LaHood Ocasio-Cortez
 LaLota Ogles
 LaMalfa Omar
 Lamborn Owens
 Landsman Pallone
 Langworthy Palmer
 Larsen (WA) Panetta
 Larson (CT) Pappas
 Latta Pascrell
 LaTurner Payne
 Lawler Pelosi
 Lee (CA) Peltola
 Lee (FL) Pence
 Lee (NV) Perez
 Lee (PA) Perry
 Leger Fernandez Peters
 Lesko Pettersen
 Letlow Pfluger
 Levin Phillips
 Lieu Pingree
 Lofgren Pocan
 Loudermilk Porter
 Lucas Posey
 Luetkemeyer Pressley
 Luna Quigley
 Luttrell Ramirez
 Lynch Raskin
 Mace Reschenthaler
 Magaziner Rodgers (WA)
 Malliotakis Rogers (AL)
 Mann Rogers (KY)
 Manning Rose
 Mast Rosendale
 Matsui Ross
 McBath Rouzer
 McCarthy Ruiz
 McCaul Ruppertsberger
 McClain Rutherford
 McClintock Ryan
 McCollum Salazar
 McCormick Salinas
 McGarvey Sánchez
 McGovern Santos
 McHenry Sarbanes
 Meeks Scalise
 Menendez Scanlon
 Meng Schakowsky
 Meuser Schiff
 Mfume Scholten
 Miller (IL) Schrier
 Miller (OH) Schweikert
 Miller (WV) Scott (VA)
 Miller-Meeks Scott, Austin
 Mills Scott, David

NAYS—4

Biggs
 Burlison

NOT VOTING—6

Bonamici
 Eshoo

Garcia (IL)
 Mullin

Self Sessions
 Sewell Sherman
 Sherrill Simpson
 Slotkin Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE) Smith (NJ)
 Smith (WA) Smucker
 Sorensen Soto
 Spanberger Spartz
 Stansbury Stanton
 Stauber Steel
 Stefanik Steil
 Stevens Stewart
 Strickland Strong
 Swalwell Sykes
 Takano Tenney
 Thanedar Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS) Thompson (PA)
 Tiffany Timmons
 Titus Tlaib
 Tokuda Tonko
 Torres (CA) Torres (NY)
 Trahan Trone
 Turner Underwood
 Valadao Valdez
 Van Drew Van Dwyne
 Van Orden Vargus
 Vasquez Veasey
 Velázquez Wagner
 Walberg Walberg
 Waltz Wasserman
 Schultz Waters
 Watson Coleman Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL) Wenstrup
 Westerman Weston
 Wild Williams (GA)
 Williams (NY) Williams (TX)
 Wilson (FL) Wilson (SC)
 Wittman Womack
 Yakym Zinke

INVESTING IN MAIN STREET ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 400) to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount that may be invested in small business investment companies, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 411, nays 13, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 35]

YEAS—411

Adams Clarke (NY)
 Aderholt Cleaver
 Aguilera Cline
 Alford Cloud
 Allen Clyburn
 Allred Clyde
 Amodei Cohen
 Armstrong Cole
 Arrington Collins
 Auchincloss Comer
 Babin Connolly
 Bacon Correa
 Baird Costa
 Balderson Craig
 Balint Crawford
 Banks Crenshaw
 Barr Crockett
 Barragan Crow
 Bean (FL) Cuellar
 Beatty Curtis
 Bentz D'Esposito
 Bera Davids (KS)
 Bergman Davidson
 Beyer Davis (IL)
 Bice Davis (NC)
 Bilirakis De La Cruz
 Bishop (GA) Dean (PA)
 Bishop (NC) DeGette
 Blumenauer DeLauro
 Blunt Rochester DelBene
 Boebert Deluzio
 Bost DeSaulnier
 Bowman DesJarlais
 Boyle (PA) Diaz-Balart
 Brown Dingell
 Brownley Doggett
 Buchanan Donalds
 Buck Duarte
 Buchson Duncan
 Budzinski Dunn (FL)
 Burchett Edwards
 Burgess Ellzey
 Bush Emmer
 Calvert Escobar
 Cammack Espallat
 Caraveo Estes
 Carbajal Evans
 Cárdenas Ezell
 Carey Fallon
 Carl Feenstra
 Carson Ferguson
 Carter (GA) Finstad
 Carter (LA) Fischbach
 Carter (TX) Fitzgerald
 Cartwright Fitzpatrick
 Casar Fleischmann
 Case Fletcher
 Casten Flood
 Castor (FL) Foster
 Castro (TX) Foushee
 Chavez-DeRemer Foss
 Cherfilus-Franklin, Lois
 McCormick Franklin, C.
 Chu Scott
 Cicilline Frost
 Ciscomani Fry
 Clark (MA) Fulcher

Kelly (PA)
 Khanna
 Kiggans (VA)
 Kildee
 Kiley
 Kilmer
 Kim (CA)
 Kim (NJ)
 Krishnamoorthi
 Kuster
 Kustoff
 LaHood
 LaLota
 LaMalfa
 Landsman
 Langworthy
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Latta
 LaTurner
 Lawler
 Lee (CA)
 Lee (FL)
 Lee (NV)
 Lee (PA)
 Leger Fernandez
 Lesko
 Letlow
 Levin
 Lieu
 Lofgren
 Loudermilk
 Lucas
 Luetkemeyer
 Luna
 Luttrell
 Lynch
 Mace
 Magaziner
 Malliotakis
 Mann
 Manning
 Mast
 Matsui
 McBath
 McCarthy
 McCaul
 McClain
 McCollum
 McCormick
 McGarvey
 McGovern
 McHenry
 Meeks
 Menendez
 Meng
 Meuser
 Mfume
 Miller (IL)
 Miller (OH)
 Miller (WV)
 Miller-Meeks
 Mills

NAYS—13
 Good (VA)
 Greene (GA)
 Harris
 McClintock
 Ogles

NOT VOTING—10

Bonamici
 Courtney
 Eshoo
 Garcia (IL)

Goldman (NY)
 Griffith
 Lamborn
 Mullin

□ 1631

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I was not able to be present to

□ 1622

Mr. BURLISON changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

vote on H.R. 400. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 35.

COMMENDING THE BRAVERY, COURAGE, AND RESOLVE OF THE WOMEN AND MEN OF IRAN DEMONSTRATING IN MORE THAN 133 CITIES AND RISKING THEIR SAFETY TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST THE IRANIAN REGIME'S HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 7) commending the bravery, courage, and resolve of the women and men of Iran demonstrating in more than 133 cities and risking their safety to speak out against the Iranian regime's human rights abuses, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 420, nays 1, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 36]

YEAS—420

Adams	Cárdenas	DelBene
Aderholt	Carey	Deluzio
Aguiar	Carl	DeSaulnier
Alford	Carson	DesJarlais
Allen	Carter (GA)	Diaz-Balart
Allred	Carter (LA)	Dingell
Amodei	Carter (TX)	Doggett
Armstrong	Cartwright	Donalds
Arrington	Casar	Duarte
Auchincloss	Case	Duncan
Babin	Casten	Dunn (FL)
Bacon	Castor (FL)	Edwards
Baird	Castro (TX)	Ellzey
Balderson	Chavez-DeRemer	Emmer
Balint	Cherfilus-	Escobar
Banks	McCormick	Espallat
Barr	Chu	Estes
Barragán	Cicilline	Evans
Bean (FL)	Ciscomani	Ezell
Beatty	Clark (MA)	Fallon
Bentz	Clarke (NY)	Feenstra
Bera	Cleaver	Ferguson
Bergman	Cline	Finstad
Beyer	Cloud	Fischbach
Bice	Clyburn	Fitzgerald
Biggs	Clyde	Fitzpatrick
Bishop (GA)	Cohen	Fleischmann
Bishop (NC)	Cole	Fletcher
Blumenauer	Collins	Flood
Blunt Rochester	Comer	Foster
Boebert	Connolly	Foushee
Bost	Correa	Fox
Bowman	Costa	Frankel, Lois
Boyle (PA)	Courtney	Franklin, C.
Brecheen	Craig	Scott
Brown	Crane	Frost
Brownley	Crawford	Fry
Buchanan	Crockett	Fulcher
Buck	Crow	Gaetz
Bucshon	Cuellar	Gallagher
Budzinski	Curtis	Galleo
Burchett	D'Esposito	Garamendi
Burgess	Dauids (KS)	Garbarino
Burlison	Davidson	Garcia (TX)
Bush	Davis (IL)	Garcia, Mike
Calvert	Davis (NC)	Garcia, Robert
Cammack	Dean (PA)	Gimenez
Caraveo	DeGette	Golden (ME)
Carbajal	DeLauro	Goldman (NY)

Gomez	Loudermilk	Ruppersberger
Gonzales, Tony	Lucas	Rutherford
Gonzalez,	Luetkemeyer	Ryan
Vicente	Luna	Salazar
Good (VA)	Luttrell	Salinas
Gooden (TX)	Lynch	Sánchez
Gosar	Mace	Santos
Gottheimer	Magaziner	Sarbanes
Graves (LA)	Malliotakis	Scalise
Graves (MO)	Mann	Scanlon
Green (TN)	Manning	Schakowsky
Green (TX)	Mast	Schiff
Greene (GA)	Matsui	Scholten
Griffith	McBath	Schrier
Grijalva	McCarthy	Schweikert
Grothman	McCaul	Scott (VA)
Guest	McClain	Scott, Austin
Guthrie	McClintock	Scott, David
Hageman	McCollum	Self
Harder (CA)	McCormick	Sessions
Harris	McGarvey	Sewell
Harshbarger	McGovern	Sherman
Hayes	McHenry	Sherrill
Hern	Meeks	Simpson
Higgins (LA)	Menendez	Slotkin
Higgins (NY)	Meng	Smith (MO)
Hill	Meuser	Smith (NE)
Himes	Mfume	Smith (NJ)
Hinson	Miller (IL)	Smith (WA)
Horsford	Miller (OH)	Smucker
Houchin	Miller (WV)	Sorensen
Houlahan	Miller-Meeks	Soto
Hoyer	Mills	Spanberger
Hoyle (OR)	Molinaro	Spartz
Hudson	Moolenaar	Stansbury
Huffman	Mooney	Stanton
Huizenga	Moore (AL)	Staubert
Hunt	Moore (UT)	Steel
Issa	Moore (WI)	Stefanik
Ivey	Moran	Steil
Jackson (IL)	Morelle	Stevens
Jackson (NC)	Moskowitz	Stewart
Jackson (TX)	Moulton	Strickland
Jackson Lee	Mrvan	Strong
Jacobs	Murphy	Swalwell
James	Nadler	Sykes
Jayapal	Napolitano	Tenney
Jeffries	Neal	Thanedar
Johnson (GA)	Neguse	Thompson (CA)
Johnson (LA)	Nehls	Thompson (MS)
Johnson (OH)	Newhouse	Thompson (PA)
Johnson (SD)	Nickel	Tiffany
Jordan	Norcross	Timmons
Joyce (OH)	Norman	Titus
Joyce (PA)	Nunn (IA)	Tokuda
Kamlager-Dove	Oberholte	Tonko
Kaptur	Ocasio-Cortez	Torres (CA)
Kean (NJ)	Ogles	Torres (NY)
Keating	Omar	Trahan
Kelly (IL)	Owens	Trone
Kelly (MS)	Pallone	Turner
Kelly (PA)	Palmer	Underwood
Khanna	Panetta	Valadao
Kiggans (VA)	Pappas	Van Drew
Kildee	Pascrell	Van Dwyne
Kiley	Payne	Van Orden
Kilmer	Pelosi	Vargas
Kim (CA)	Peltola	Vasquez
Kim (NJ)	Pence	Veasey
Krishnamoorthi	Perez	Velázquez
Kuster	Perry	Wagner
Kustoff	Peters	Walberg
LaHood	Pettersen	Waltz
LaLota	Pfluger	Wasserman
LaMalfa	Phillips	Schultz
Lamborn	Pingree	Waters
Landsman	Pocan	Watson Coleman
Langworthy	Porter	Weber (TX)
Larsen (WA)	Posey	Webster (FL)
Larson (CT)	Pressley	Wenstrup
Latta	Quigley	Westerman
LaTurner	Ramirez	Wild
Lawler	Raskin	Williams (GA)
Lee (CA)	Reschenthaler	Williams (NY)
Lee (FL)	Rodgers (WA)	Williams (TX)
Lee (NV)	Rogers (AL)	Wilson (FL)
Lee (PA)	Rogers (KY)	Wilson (SC)
Leger Fernandez	Rose	Wittman
Lesko	Rosendale	Womack
Letlow	Ross	Yakym
Levin	Rouzer	Zinke
Lieu	Roy	
Lofgren	Ruiz	

NAYS—1

Massie

NOT VOTING—13

Bilirakis	Garcia (IL)	Takano
Bonamici	Granger	Tlaib
Crenshaw	Mullin	Wexton
De La Cruz	Schneider	
Eshoo	Steube	

□ 1641

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the concurrent resolution was amended so as to read: "A concurrent resolution condemning the Iranian regime's human rights abuses against the brave women and men of Iran peacefully demonstrating in more than 133 cities."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on H. Con. Res. 7—Commedning the bravery, courage, and resolve of the women and men of Iran demonstrating in more than 133 cities and risking their safety to speak out against the Iranian regime's human rights abuses. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 36.

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 36.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I regret to inform you that I was unable to attend today's legislative session. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 34, YEA on Roll Call No. 35, and YEA on Roll Call No. 36.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. AGUILAR. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 57

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE: Ms. Eshoo, Ms. DeGette, Ms. Schakowsky, Ms. Matsui, Ms. Castor of Florida, Mr. Sarbanes, Mr. Tonko, Ms. Clarke of New York, Mr. Cárdenas, Mr. Ruiz, Mr. Peters, Mrs. Dingell, Mr. Veasey, Ms. Kuster, Ms. Kelly of Illinois, Ms. Barragán, Ms. Blunt Rochester, Mr. Soto, Ms. Craig, Ms. Schrier, Mrs. Trahan, Mrs. Fletcher.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES: Ms. Velázquez, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Meeks, Mr. David Scott of Georgia, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Green of Texas, Mr. Cleaver, Mr. Himes, Mr. Foster, Mrs. Beatty, Mr. Vargas, Mr. Gottheimer, Mr. Vicente Gonzalez of Texas, Mr. Casten, Ms. Pressley, Mr. Torres of New York, Mr. Horsford, Ms. Tlaib, Ms. Garcia of Texas, Ms. Williams of Georgia, Mr. Nickel, Ms. Pettersen.

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION: Mr. Morelle, Ms. Sewell, Mr. Kilmer, Mrs. Torres of California.

COMMITTEE ON RULES: Ms. Scanlon, Mr. Neguse, Ms. Leger Fernandez.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS: Mr. Doggett, Mr. Thompson of California, Mr. Larson of Connecticut, Mr. Blumenauer, Mr. Pascrell, Mr. Davis of Illinois, Ms. Sánchez, Mr. Higgins of New York, Ms. Sewell, Ms. DelBene, Ms. Chu, Ms. Moore of Wisconsin, Mr. Kildee, Mr. Beyer, Mr. Evans, Mr. Schneider, Mr. Panetta.

Mr. AGUILAR (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. HAGEMAN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE MONTEREY PARK DANCE STUDIO SHOOTING

Ms. CHU. This last Saturday night, a shooter came into my hometown of Monterey Park, California, to a dance studio and killed 11 innocent people.

Today, I rise to honor the memories of the 11 lives we lost: Diana Tom, Mymy Nhan, Lillian Li, Xiujuan Yu, Hong Jian, Muoi Ung, Valentino Alvero, Yu-Lun Kao, Chia Yau, Wen-Tau Yu, Ming Ma.

I also wish for the speedy recovery for the nine who are injured, many of whom are still in the hospital.

Lunar New Year is a time of celebration for the thriving Asian-American community in my hometown. Saturday's senseless murders pierced the peace and joy of our celebrations and tore a hole through our hearts.

This Lunar New Year was supposed to be a celebration of the Year of the Rabbit, characterized by hopefulness and peace.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to keep hope alive and work together to make our country a peaceful one free from this kind of horrific violence.

Thank you for helping me honor the memories of those lost by observing a moment of silence.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 212

Mr. TRONE. Madam Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H.R. 212, the Protecting our Land Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's request is accepted.

□ 1645

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and

congratulate the record-breaking completion rates at the University of Georgia.

In just one year, the university's 4-year completion rate for freshmen has increased from 72.1 percent to 75.1 percent.

The university's 6-year completion rate has reached a new high of 88.1 percent, and the retention rate of students remains strong at 94.3 percent.

I commend the university's faculty hiring initiatives that have bolstered this already prestigious institution.

High-demand areas of study such as the Terry College of Business and the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences continue to provide students with very talented professors, thanks to these initiatives.

The university has also continued to grow tutoring and peer learning programs to provide students with all the resources they need to succeed.

I am proud of the hard work the University of Georgia is doing to ensure student success across the board. Go Dawgs.

SALUTING CASSADY DAVIS

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I rise today early to kick off Black History Month. Cassady Davis, a third grader from Evening Street Elementary School, we salute her.

She is the daughter of McKenzie and Shawna Davis. She enjoys soccer, swimming, reading, and spending time with her sister, Collins.

Students have the opportunity to select past and present-day leaders for their Black history showcase. I am honored that Cassady chose me as her modern-day leader.

I commend the work of America's educators who are instilling in our students the importance of Black history, which is American history, and empowering young girls like Cassady to become the Nation's next generation of leaders.

So to all listening today, we salute a 9-year-old, Cassady Davis.

REPRESENTING PENNSYLVANIA'S 15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today to represent Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District.

The 15th Congressional District encompasses 18 counties in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, nearly one-third of the land mass.

It includes all of Armstrong, Cameron, Centre—including my hometown of Howard—Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, Potter, Snyder, Tioga, Union, and War-

ren Counties. It also includes parts of Indiana, Lycoming, and Venango Counties.

Madam Speaker, I take great pride in my service to the people of the 15th Congressional District, and I work hard to earn their trust, help solve their problems, and be a diligent Representative.

When I am not here in Washington, I spend my days on the road in the district, traveling to meetings and events, and I work to connect with my constituents and truly be a voice for each community I serve.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak here as I gave 144 1-minute speeches in the 117th Congress and to be a strong voice for the citizens of the 15th District.

The challenges before us remain great. It is my hope that we will tackle these challenges head on. It is the American way.

ATTACKS ON AFRICAN-AMERICAN CULTURE IN FLORIDA

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the recent attacks on African-American culture in Florida.

Recently, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis blocked a new advanced placement course on African-American studies.

The course was inclusive of study of African-American culture that included literature, the arts, politics, science, and even geography. In addition, it included discussions about the Black struggle in modern America.

Governor DeSantis said that the class lacks educational value because it includes other subjects and the theory of slave reparations.

Clearly, Governor DeSantis believes education should reject any content that allows students to think for themselves, and he wants Americans to think that nothing bad ever happened in American history.

That does not sound like education to me. It sounds like indoctrination, and it should not be welcome anywhere in America.

Wokeness on the Republican side has become a new word, a code word. Let's eradicate that position.

SUPPORTING IRANIAN PROTESTERS

(Mr. SANTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SANTOS. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of the brave Iranian protesters who are fighting against barbaric forces of immorality.

During his 1967 inaugural address as Governor of California, Ronald Reagan said that "Freedom is a fragile thing, and it is never more than one generation away from extinction."

Iranian protestors have based this revolution on three principles: women, life, and freedom, all of which America has rightfully championed.

With a considerable population of Iranian Americans in New York's Third Congressional District, let America serve as a Democratic beacon of light for the Iranian men and women who are fighting abroad.

I acknowledge Representative TENNEY, who introduced a House concurrent resolution commending the bravery of the men and women of Iran.

I declare, with every bullet and with every act of violence imposed by the Iranian government, comes a call for us to condemn their actions and urge the Biden administration to take far greater actions than mere sanctions to address the countless murders and examples of senseless brutality.

RECOGNIZING RANDY SAWYER

(Mr. DESAULNIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a good friend and a wonderful professional, Randy Sawyer.

Randy has been a dedicated public servant in the county I represent in San Francisco Bay Area, Contra Costa. Contra Costa is home to a heavily industrialized part of the bay area with refineries and chemical plants.

Randy has served important roles at the Contra Costa Health Services, beginning as a specialist engineer in the Hazardous Materials Division, then becoming the Chief Environmental Health and Hazardous Materials Officer, and ultimately ending as the Deputy Director.

Among Randy's efforts to promote public health, he helped to champion the county's community warning system, one of the best response teams in the State and the country, to alert county residents and businesses when they are impacted or in danger of being impacted by an emergency.

He also helped Contra Costa lead the county in refinery safety with his work on the industrial safety ordinance, which I am proud to be an author of.

The legacy of Randy's work will continue to protect residents in the bay area for years to come. Please join me in congratulating Randy on his retirement and honoring him for his 30 years of public service.

□ 1700

LET'S PREPARE FOR DISASTER

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, recently, my home State of California has suffered from a series of devastating storms on the flood side of the

equation. We received at least 11 inches of rainfall and were hit by extreme flooding as a result.

Now, in California, unlike any other places, we have a simultaneous flood emergency and drought emergency; only in modern California. Many people were forced to evacuate. Twenty people lost their lives.

The damage was extensive, but the real disaster is that we already know how to reduce the fallout from flood events. If we built more water storage, such as Sites Reservoir, raising Shasta Dam, et cetera, we could store more of this rainfall that would not become floodwater, rather than also allowing it to flush out to the ocean where we will need that water in a regular drought period for agriculture, et cetera.

Storing water from these storms also allows us to weather our periodic droughts, such as in San Luis Reservoir. If we could run the pumps hard enough, we could be filling that facility.

So, again, that removes water from a flood zone and puts it into a good place where we can use the water.

We get fatalities from these disasters; they flood out roads; they do destructive damage to infrastructure.

We need better evacuation routes for people. We need to think ahead and plan for storage and for flood infrastructure, instead of letting climate change and environmental issues stop it.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE

(Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the 50th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the historic Supreme Court decision that gave women legal access to abortion.

Now, 50 years later, an extreme MAGA Supreme Court has reversed Roe, taking us to a new dark place in history; and now Republicans are racing full steam ahead toward a nationwide abortion ban, creating hardship and even death for pregnant women, and prison for their doctors.

To that, I say, my, my, my.

People, not politicians, should have the freedom to control their own reproductive destinies. On the 50th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, I rise to say that the American people want more freedom, not less; and that means the ability of each person to make the personal decision about their health, their lives, and their future.

INTRODUCING FRESHMAN REPUBLICAN MEMBERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I would like to kick off our first Wednesday Special Order Hour of the year by extending my congratulations and warm wishes to all of our colleagues, all the new Members, all the Members who are returning here. We have very, very important work to do in the 118th Congress.

I want to thank our House Democrat counterparts, as well, for working with us to ensure a smooth transition from the minority to the majority. It is an important part of our institution, and we are grateful for how this has gone so far.

We should all be rooting for the success of this Congress, obviously, because when Congress succeeds, everyone in our country benefits; and so we have an important responsibility before us.

We are under no illusion that the governing in such a closely divided body over these divided times is going to be any easy task. We know that. We know what the challenges are.

But we are also under no illusion that Congress has been operating as it should be. We think this can be done better, and our endeavor here is to show everyone how.

This problem that we faced here has been around for a long time. Look at just what happened in the last Congress. We had trillions upon trillions of dollars in government spending, which sent inflation soaring.

We had votes on immensely consequential, complex, 1,000-plus page bills sent to us just hours before we were called to vote upon them.

We had Congress steadily outsourcing its authority over to unelected bureaucrats in the executive agencies.

We had Members dial into congressional hearing, literally, from their bedrooms and their basements. We had Members voting by proxy while they were on vacation abroad.

With the 118th Congress, we are here to declare that those days are over. The House is getting back to work. We are ending remote voting and remote committee work in the House. That is going to restore greater transparency and accountability in the legislative process.

I actually believe that when we restore in-person work, as this was designed to be done, as the Founders intended, as they drew it up, it is going to have an added benefit because I believe it will help us rebuild comity and foster more civility in the House.

I am not going to belabor this point, but I would just say, at the end of last

year, Congress passed a 4,155-page bill. We spent \$1.7 trillion on that omni; and I think it was one of the worst government funding bills in the history of Congress.

Instead of individual bills to fund each Federal agency one by one, with a roll call vote and amendments and deliberation process, we didn't have any of that. We had all the agencies lumped together right before the end-of-the-year deadline with dozens of unrelated policies attached to it. I mean, everything from electoral college changes to retirement changes, cosmetics regulation, healthcare policies, salmon fishing, and horse racing regulations, all crammed in there together, under the guise of a government funding bill.

The process for passing this bill was almost as ugly as the substance. It was written behind closed doors, I mean, literally, behind closed doors by a handful of people. It was brought to the House for a vote before anybody could possibly read it, much less debate or amend it.

Is there a single Member, is there a single Member of this body who thinks that is the way we should conduct the people's business? I don't think so.

So this should go without saying, but if we are going to fund each government agency and make changes to those unregulated policies, we should do it in regular order. We should do it in the regular process.

It should require a full, open debate in committee and on the floor, with the opportunity to make amendments. Republicans are committed to do this. We are back in charge, and that status quo that we have had here, where there is no transparency, no accountability, outright disregard for regular order, those days are over.

Campaign season is over. The House has elected our Speaker, and now it is time to get to work.

Madam Speaker, tonight, with the remaining time that we have in our hour, we reserved the time because we want to introduce the American people to some of the bright, new Republican Members that have joined the body here. They are going to discuss some of the problems that are currently facing our country.

They bring a fresh, new perspective to this, and their voices are very, very important. And we are also going to talk a little bit about the Republican vision for how we are going to address all of these crises.

We are in charge. We are here ready to work, and I am delighted to introduce a few of these key Members.

I would start first, Madam Speaker, by yielding to the gentleman from east Texas, Congressman NATHANIEL MORAN. I will say just a moment before I yield him the time, that we are neighboring districts. I represent Northwest Louisiana, and then right over the Texas border is my friend there. He is replacing the great LOUIE GOHMERT who has finally retired from Congress.

I will tell you just a quick bit about Nathaniel. He is formerly a West Point

student, a graduate of Texas Tech University. He has a B.A. in Russian language and area studies, an MBA, and a law degree. He had a civil practice in the east Texas area, focused primarily on business and commercial litigation and transaction work.

He served on the City Council in the city of Tyler, Texas. He was mayor pro tem and, ultimately, he was appointed the Smith County judge, and he served in that capacity from 2016 until he was elected to Congress in 2022.

The thing about a county judge in Texas is they are, effectively, the boss in that area. They hold all the power. They do all kinds of stuff. They are not just a judge in a court; they are like an administrator over the whole area; and he did it so well.

What I love about him most is he is a family man who is dedicated to his faith, and he is a patriot. They have four children, just like we do. He represents a great area, and we are delighted to have him.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN. I thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) for this opportunity to speak.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce myself and to re-introduce the First District of Texas to this distinguished body, the people's House.

For those of you that do not know, the First District of Texas is made up of 17 counties in east and northeast Texas. The people there are faith-based, they are family-loving, they are hardworking, they are tough-minded, and they are service-oriented individuals.

They use their independent spirits, their patriotic hearts, and their rugged hands to build a future centered around faith, family, and freedom.

There are simply no better people in this world than those who reside in Congressional District 1 in Texas, and there are none more dedicated to seeing this world be a better place for our children and our grandchildren than my constituents.

The First District of Texas boasts a landscape of pine trees, dogwoods, roses, azaleas, pecan and peach orchards, lakes, and beauty beyond imagination.

Its economy is as diverse and strong as its people. It is not just home to some of the best oil and gas operations in the world, but it is home to innovative manufacturing, world-class healthcare, top-notch educational institutions, farming and ranching operations, food processing plants, steel and pipe companies, and so much more. You name it, our folks do it, and they do it with a spirit of excellence, innovation, and service toward one another.

The people in east Texas know that liberty gives rise to prosperity, but prosperity should always give rise to generosity.

In east Texas, the people love their God, their families, and their Nation, and they are willing to sacrifice all for

those things. That is why we have so many veterans in our community.

East Texas is filled with individuals who, out of reverence and respect for the most important things in life, still stand for the national anthem and bow at their church altar. They know how to stand firm for their principles and to ask for forgiveness when they make mistakes.

To be sure, they know that strength and humility are not mutually exclusive; rather, they are values that support and build on one another.

I am so proud and humbled to represent Texas' First Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives.

When I was just shy of 2 years old, my parents moved me and my three older brothers from Arizona to east Texas in Southern Smith County, and they worked with other families in that area to start a Bible college. For almost a decade, I lived on that Bible college campus and spent most of my time either going to church or exploring the woods and the county roads that surrounded our little single-wide trailer.

From climbing trees, to shooting snakes, drinking the nectar of honeysuckles along the roadside, playing football with the neighborhood kids, or recovering from multiple broken bones from all the adventures we had living in the country, several things became clear to me from my upbringing.

Among them, I learned, first: that Almighty God has a call for each of us in this life; that we were created for a divine purpose.

I learned that each of us have equal and eternal value.

I learned also that the great commandment in Matthew 22, of loving God and loving others, should guide our every decision and action in life.

I learned simply that we are all sinners in need of a savior; and I learned that these United States form the greatest Nation that has ever existed; and our Republic is great because of the breadth of the freedoms offered here, which come only from heaven above.

I am proud to be the first graduate of Whitehouse High School to serve as a Member of Congress, and I am deeply thankful that my calling in life has led me to this place, to this floor, where I hope to fan the flames of liberty, and to create more opportunities for my children, my four children, and for the children of every family in east Texas and beyond.

As a city councilmember in Tyler, I learned quickly that sound policy is so much more important than soundbites. Those 4 years on the city council solidified my desire to serve my community in whatever way possible.

Whether as a Sunday school teacher, a church deacon, a trombone player in the worship band, Cub Scout den leader, assistant Scoutmaster for the Boy

Scouts, or coach for my daughters' basketball teams, or simply just a volunteer for nonprofits across the community. I discovered that giving is so much better than receiving.

I am blessed with a loving wife and four children, two boys and two girls, from high school down to kindergarten, and they are a primary motivator for me to fix what is so wrong with this country.

I want my kids to grow and to know a country where freedom reigns supreme; where government is limited; and where their good decisions can lead to good consequences but, equally as important, where their bad decisions can lead to bad consequences so they can learn from their mistakes.

The road ahead for America will not be easy. As a country, we must make tough decisions to reverse our current trajectory. If we make these good decisions, we will see good consequences. But if we fail in that task, in that mission, the consequences will get more dire and the future will become more bleak.

□ 1715

In fulfilling our mission, we should never compromise our principles, but we can be both principled conservatives and pragmatic policymakers.

As a county judge in one of the most conservative counties in the State of Texas, I was proud to maintain one of the lowest tax rates in the State while still addressing critical areas of county government like improving roads and bridges, supporting law enforcement, working to improve election integrity, and addressing longstanding facility needs.

It is possible to do both, to keep the burden of taxes low while still addressing the critical needs of this country, but it takes the wisdom to see the right path forward and the courage to take it. In short, it means channeling the greatness of the character of this country, the type of bold and strong character evident in the people of the First Congressional District in east Texas and in so many other places in this great country.

I thank my constituents for this opportunity to serve; to be strong and courageous for them and for this country; and to work with all my might to preserve, protect, and defend this Constitution and the United States of America. I pledge to do just that and to do all that I can to make that happen.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas. Texas is well represented, and the First District certainly is.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to introduce next for his first Special Order hour speech one of the bright lights in the new incoming class in the 118th Congress, Representative MIKE LAWLER from New York. He represents the 17th Congressional District there, which includes Rockland County, Putnam County, and portions of Westchester and Dutchess Counties.

Before serving in the U.S. House, he represented New York's 97th District in the State Assembly and served on really important committees there—banks, education, housing. He has a broad range of experience.

In the New York State Assembly—this is a neat statistic—he passed more bills than any other member of his conference. It really is a testament to his ability to work in a bipartisan, pragmatic fashion to approach the problems that we face. That is a skill that is going to come in handy here.

He previously served as a deputy town supervisor and as a senior adviser to a county executive. He was also the executive director of the State Republican Party in New York—that is no small task—and did a great job there.

He graduated from Manhattan College with degrees in accounting and finance. He was the valedictorian there, I would note, but his greatest accomplishment, of course, is his wife and daughter. They live in Pearl River.

We are delighted to have Congressman MIKE LAWLER here. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER).

Mr. LAWLER. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend from Louisiana for the kind words and gracious introduction.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk with respect to School Choice Week here in the United States and to address the dire need for education reform across our country.

As a child, I attended public schools. In New York, we have some truly phenomenal public schools. When I was in second grade, I was among the youngest people in my class with a September birthday, and my teacher, an immigrant from Russia, said to my parents that she felt it was important for me to be left back because I needed time to mature and grow.

My parents were open to the idea so long as she was my teacher again, and at the time, that was not the program. They would give you another teacher within the grade.

So, my parents pushed until the school acquiesced and allowed her to teach me a second time. It was the best thing that ever happened to me because it gave me the opportunity to grow, to mature, to develop. I went from being one of the youngest in my class to the oldest in my class, and that had a profound impact on me.

As my colleague pointed out, when I graduated college, I graduated as the valedictorian of my class. I don't say that as a bragging point; I say it as the result, the direct impact, that that moment had on my life from an education standpoint.

As I think about education and the impact that it has on our communities and our children, I believe in school choice. I believe not only in the right of parents to choose what education is best for their child but in the right of a child to get the education that will put them on a path to success in their

careers, an education that will accentuate their skills and their talents.

Whether that is a public school education or a private school education, a charter school or a vocational school, those options must be available to every child. No child should ever be victim to a poor education because of their parent's wealth or their ZIP Code.

Too often, we see that children are left in substandard schools because of politics, and it is wrong. As I mentioned, I am a product of public schools. My sister-in-law is a special education teacher in the very district that I graduated from. She is part of the teachers union. I respect and admire our teachers across America who provide a valuable education to our children, but we must ensure, number one, that every child has access to a quality education and, number two, that parents, not bureaucrats, certainly not the teachers union, have a say over their child's education.

As we recognize School Choice Week, I think it is important to recognize the quality education that is provided in our public schools, yes, but also in our private schools, our religious schools, our parochial schools, and yeshivas. They provide an important education, not just with respect to the basics of math, science, English, and history, but a religious foundation that plays such a pivotal role in a child's life.

We must recognize the role vocational schools play. At a young age, we should be helping children identify what their skills are, what their talents are, what their interests are so that they have a path to success.

Not everyone is meant to go to college. College is a great thing. As somebody who graduated at the top of my class, I believe in a college education, but it is not necessary for everyone.

In this country, some of our most successful people don't have college degrees. They went the route of a vocational school. They own and operate their own business within the trades. They employ hundreds, if not thousands, of people. They contribute greatly to our economy and communities.

For me, as we move forward, we need to continue to invest critical resources in education at the Federal level, at the State level, and at the local level. We need to protect local control of schools, and we need to protect the rights of parents when it comes to their child's education.

All of this is so critical as we move forward to ensure that our children have a bright future and that they are productive and contributing members of our society.

Education is the civil rights issue of our generation. It is so critical to ensure that every child receives the quality education they are entitled to.

When we look at what has happened over the last few years, especially with the COVID-19 pandemic, where so many schools were shut down and children were forced to learn remotely, we

saw devastating impacts and irreparable harm put upon our children. Nine-year-olds lost ground in math for the first time since the 1970s. Scores in reading fell by the largest margin in more than 30 years.

The damage was not felt equally across all demographics. Schools that remained open, or were closed for a shorter duration, did not see the same decline in student performance. Unfortunately, high-poverty districts that went remote for a majority of the pandemic will need to spend nearly all of their Federal education aid just to recover from these losses.

Such disparities are not new, and the COVID-19 pandemic has shone new light on issues that have been plaguing many communities for a long time.

Students in poor communities, whether they are urban or rural, tend to have lower test scores, literacy rates, and graduation rates than their peers. Meanwhile, the presence of alternatives to underperforming schools has been able to improve student outcomes substantially, slashing the achievement gap.

In the two decades since school choice programs were enacted in Florida, fourth grade reading performance rose 26 percent among African-American students, 27 percent among Hispanic students, and 29 percent among students from low-income households. Similarly, math performance rose 27 points among African-American students, 19 points among Hispanic students, and 21 points among low-income students.

In my State of New York, charter schools have made a big difference in some of the same students that struggle. According to 2019 test scores, 63 percent of charter school students in grades three through eight passed the State math exam compared to 46 percent for traditional public school students. Additionally, 57 percent of charter school students in the same grade levels were proficient in English language arts while the percentage for traditional public school students was 47 percent.

Any discussion on education reform must include school choice and support for it and support for our vocational schools, parochial schools, traditional private schools, and charter schools. We have to have an all-of-the-above approach. We need to empower communities, parents, and students, as well as our educators, to ensure that every child gets the education they deserve.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from New York.

School choice is such an important issue. I love what he said: Education is the civil rights issue of our time. So well said.

Madam Speaker, there is a theme here tonight. We brought in incoming Members of the freshman class of the 118th Congress from the largest States, I think. It is not just a coincidence that we chose them for that duty to-

night. We have had Texas and New York, and we will go to Florida next.

I am delighted to introduce a new Member from there, Representative CORY MILLS. I will tell you just a little bit about him.

He is a decorated U.S. Army combat veteran and recipient of the Bronze Star. He left his home State of Florida to serve his country in uniform and then served further our U.S. State Department and other government agencies in both Afghanistan and Iraq.

In fact, he served with the 82nd Airborne Division and was a member of the Joint Special Operations Command, Combined Joint Task Force 20 in Iraq. He spent significant time there, 7 years of service in Iraq and approximately 2 years in Afghanistan. He served in the Kosovo campaign in 2000. He has traveled to the front lines of Ukraine during the Russian invasion to provide information for USAID and Department of State officials.

He is a busy guy. President Trump appointed him to the Pentagon as a Department of Defense adviser and foreign policy expert.

With his wife, I love that he, in the private sector, cofounded PACEM Solutions International LLC and PACEM Defense LLC.

We love that he is here with us because he is a husband and a father, a patriot and a combat veteran, an entrepreneur, a foreign policy expert, and a true American conservative. We are going to have a lot of work for him to do.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLS).

Mr. MILLS. Madam Speaker, today, I want to introduce myself not just to the great people of Florida's Seventh District but to the rest of America.

While I may not be in your district and your exact Representative, if you believe in our constitutionality, if you believe in the rights, liberties, and freedoms in which American exceptionalism once excelled in, then I will be your Representative.

□ 1730

I came from a very humble upbringing. I grew up in a small town called Auburndale, Florida, in central Florida.

My mother and father both suffered from drug and substance issues. They were in and out of prison nearly all of my life—my father spent nearly 30 years, my mother spent nearly 7 years. I bounced house to house until I was finally adopted and taken in by my grandparents.

That is a very humbling experience for me, not just because so many Americans today are suffering from these things, but to also understand that I can hear your plight. Also, I understand the significant importance of being a nuclear family member.

My grandparents didn't have much. My grandfather was a welder, my grandmother used to do hair on the back patio for women in the commu-

nity. We lived on very little after my grandfather's disability. But the one thing that we always had was our love, our faith, and this Nation.

I went on to serve in the 82nd Airborne and as a member of the Joint Special Operations Command, to serve honorably in our Armed Forces, and to be a Bronze Star recipient.

My socioeconomic status and how I was born into what family did not define who I am. That is something very rare in this world. That is something that only exists here in America.

I have been honored and blessed to create tremendous businesses with my wife, where we have gone on to serve over 200 of our law enforcement departments: SRT, HRT, the FDLE, the Department of Corrections, as well as for our members of the Armed Forces. In my family, we truly believe in the ideas of defend, not defund our men and women in blue, and that matters to us.

I would just add that as I stand here, willing to serve yet again in a new uniform, I want you to know that accountability, transparency, and accessibility to your Members should be a top priority. That also means accountability for the wrongdoings of our Federal Government, whether it is the overstepping of State's rights and individual rights and the violations of the 10th amendment, or whether it is getting accountability for the wrongdoings of open borders, a failed Afghan withdrawal, and the America-last policies that have threatened our energy independence.

Madam Speaker, I know something about these failed withdrawals. When Congressman RONNY JACKSON from Texas reached out to me, he had a mother, Miriam, with three children, a 15-year-old boy, an 11-year-old little girl, and a 2-year-old little girl. They were left behind in Afghanistan after the Biden administration chose to abandon Bagram Air Base to hand over to the Chinese, that enabled over 40,000 Taliban, Haqqani, and ISIS Khorasan to be released from their detention centers, but it also shut down the commercial flights that many Americans had planned on using to return home.

This mother and her three children only wanted to do one thing, return back home to America. When RONNY JACKSON called the Department of Defense and the Department of State under this Biden administration, they failed to answer the call.

That is why when he called me, we put together a great team that went over, and after 11 days and three failed attempts, the Biden administration not only threatened to shoot down an aircraft of Americans, which was a November aircraft that was there to save other Americans, but he thwarted us in three other efforts.

The great thing about America is that we are not defined by the minority, which is our Federal Government. We are defined by the voice of the American people, which is the majority that cannot be silenced. That is why

after 11 days, multiple attempts, and crossing into impermissible environments, we were able to rescue and conduct the very first successful overland rescue of Americans out of Afghanistan and return that mother and her three children back and they finished out their school year.

Madam Speaker, the one thing I believe in is action. While I take this time to speak before you today, I want you to know that that is not what the American people are about—politicians speaking, but acting.

When it came to the 2020 riots, we didn't sit back and ask to defend and dismantle our law enforcement. My wife and I, we stood strong as we donated hundreds of thousands of dollars and less lethal goods to defend our law enforcement, our communities, their businesses, and their homes.

If I have learned nothing in my time in the military as a combat veteran, as a businessowner, as a foreign policy expert, and as an American, it is that it is time for action.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend and I thank him for his service to our country. We are glad he is here.

Madam Speaker, we have many bright lights from Florida. Another one that I would like to introduce next is Congresswoman ANNA PAULINA LUNA, who is here to serve her first term. She represents Florida's 13th Congressional District.

She is a member of the House Freedom Caucus and the Second Amendment Caucus, and is already very busy here on the grounds.

She is the first Mexican-American woman elected to the United States Congress to represent the big State of Florida. She was raised by a single mother in one of southern California's low-income neighborhoods. She tells the story often that she experienced firsthand the devastating consequences of radical, Big Government policies in cities like the one she grew up in. It was a tough childhood.

She joined the military at a young age and she went on to graduate from the University of West Florida with a bachelor's degree in biology. She served in the U.S. Air Force, and that is where she met her husband Andy, who is a Bronze Star recipient who earned a Purple Heart when enemy combatants shot at him in Afghanistan.

She brings an extraordinary work ethic and an inspiring life story and her fresh perspective to our Republican Conference. We are so happy to have her join our group here and our conservative cause.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. LUNA).

Mrs. LUNA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the politicization of what is happening at our southern border against the American people.

Several years ago, before politics was even a factor or thought for me, I got

involved as a counter-trafficking activist. During that time, I had the honor and privilege of working next to some very brave people who were working to expose what was happening with the whole immigration debate.

One of the more alarming things that I found is the more that I addressed this issue, the more that I got involved to really shed light on it to the American people, the more that I was called a "coconut," the more the color of my skin became a topic of discussion, and the more that the left sought to, if anything, underestimate and undermine my capability to address this topic because of the fact that I am a conservative.

Yes, I am Hispanic. Yes, I am a veteran. Yes, I grew up and saw things that a lot of people, probably in this very body, haven't had to experience.

But what I am standing here today to say is: What I have realized over that journey—what I have realized over the past couple of years—is that I thought that in politics some people would be here to do the right things, and I found that it is actually the exact opposite.

I found that within this body people will lie to the American people about what is happening at our southern border, not because they want to help people, not because they actually care about these issues, but because they simply seek power. I think that we are seeing that today.

Only several years ago you could see some Members of the Democrat Party, some people like former-President Barack Obama say: Don't come here, you will get hurt in the process. Yet, the media seems to forget about that.

They say now that if you are a Republican, if you embrace border security, if you want to stand up for people that are being trafficked that you are a racist, that you are xenophobic, and they seek to label us. It is simply not true.

I have been down to the border three times, and I can tell you that on my last experience down there I went with a member of the Border Patrol Union, his name is Art Del Cueto. We went down to a portion of the border that was completely open. It was on an Indian reservation. What I saw and heard down there was alarming. It was alarming for several reasons, one mainly being that the media wasn't discussing it. But also, too, one of the most horrifying stories that I heard was actually from him saying that on just regular walkie-talkies that you could purchase at Walmart, you could pick up the radio frequency of some of the "coyotes" working with the cartels to actually scout out women that were crossing illegally and they would be brought up to the top of these mountains and raped. That was their right of passage they would say; they would joke about it.

That is something that we should all be talking about. We pride ourselves in this country—being that we are a free country, free of slavery. Yet, that is

happening every single day. We have the opportunity to fix it and we don't.

Why?

It is not because we can't fix it, we can.

It is because of partisan politics. That has to end. In 2021 alone, 147,000 unaccompanied minors were crossing along the U.S.-Mexico border. There is no question in my mind that these young people are absolutely exploited for entry and abuse of the asylum process that has been actively happening over the last couple of years, especially under this administration.

The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women estimated that 60 percent of Latin-American children caught by cartels are actually exploited for child pornography or drug trafficking purposes.

If we, as a country, cannot come together and address the simple issue of trafficking, of modern-day slavery, of the exploitation of children—minority children at that—then are we any better than a Third World country or a place like China that engages in human rights abuses every single day?

I am tired of this. I am sitting here willing to work with Members across the aisle, but I don't see that olive branch because of the fact that I am a conservative Republican. That is wrong, and that is why I am standing here today.

I hope that we, as a country, can come together. That this administration can accept responsibility for the absolutely inappropriate abuse of the media saying that they want to legalize everyone, that is encouraging people to come here and people are hurt on both sides because of it.

Madam Speaker, if there are people willing to work with me, I hope to work with them. I hope to end this awful slavery that we are seeing every single day.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend. That is such an important issue and we can't talk about it enough. Thank you for drawing the Nation's attention to it tonight.

Madam Speaker, our final new Member that we wanted to introduce tonight comes from another big State, and that is California.

I want to tell you a little bit about Representative KEVIN KILEY. He serves the people of California's Third District in the House. He is from that district. He was born there. He attended the local public high school there. His mom was a special education teacher. I guess that inspired him because he began his career as a 10th grade English teacher at Manual Arts High School in inner city LA.

He chaired the English Department there. He led his students to significant academic gains and he founded an award-winning speech and debate team.

After graduating law school, he helped prosecute the civil case against China's Huawei Technologies for intellectual property theft. He defended the

Constitution in California courts—we have that in common. We did a lot of that work in the courts before we came to Congress. He became a prosecutor and he represented the people of the State of California against violent felons as a deputy attorney general.

He was first elected to the California State Assembly in 2016, and he did some significant work there in his tenure. He introduced significant school choice legislation. He authored groundbreaking new laws and protections for sexual assault victims, and privacy and criminal justice reform, and freedom of speech. In fact, in 2020, he was named the National Legislator of the Year for that work for advancing economic freedom.

I could go on about his bio, but I do want to mention this one little minor note. He has a bachelor's degree from Harvard, a law degree from Yale, and a master's in secondary education from Loyola Marymount. Clearly, he is overqualified to serve in the U.S. Congress, but we are glad he is here. I think he brings a lot to this body and will be an extraordinary Member.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY).

Mr. KILEY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for that kind introduction. It is an honor to represent California's Third District.

Madam Speaker, I would like to raise an important issue regarding aid for my constituents harmed in the Caldor fire, which I had the chance to discuss with President Biden yesterday.

The Caldor fire tore through El Dorado, Alpine, and Amador Counties in August of 2021. The community of Grizzly Flats was leveled and 800 homes were destroyed. With 20,000 residents under mandatory evacuation orders, further devastation was only narrowly avoided.

Americans may remember the surreal images of ski slopes set aflame, smoke billowing from the foothills, and ash raining down on cities across the Sacramento Valley. Entire communities in the Lake Tahoe area had their survival hanging on a razor's edge and could well have been consumed by the flames if not for the heroics of our first responders.

By the time the blaze was extinguished, it ranked among the most destructive fires in California's recorded history.

I had the chance to walk through the hollowed out streets and roads of Grizzly Flats just days after the fire. To his credit, President Biden visited the following month as well. President Biden traveled to California in September of 2021 to survey the damage. After landing at Mather Airport, President Biden joined Governor Newsom, California Office of Emergency Service Director Mark Ghilarducci, and other State and Federal officials for an aerial tour of the smoldering remains of Grizzly Flats, and the surrounding area.

After landing, CAL OES Director Ghilarducci thanked President Biden

for the relief that had been provided to victims of the recent Dixie and River fires, and the relief that would soon be provided for victims of the Caldor fire.

□ 1745

At that point, President Biden interjected. He said: "We are going to take care of them." "... there's a lot we can do, and it starts off being a Federal responsibility, in my view."

These are President Biden's words as he was present shortly after the fire: "We are going to take care of them." "... there's a lot we can do, and it starts off being a Federal responsibility, in my view."

Yet, well over 1 year later, President Biden has yet to fulfill that promise and provide individual assistance through FEMA to hundreds of people—hundreds of my constituents—who lost everything. In fact, FEMA has twice denied individual assistance, even though this same Federal aid was provided in similarly destructive wildfires such as the 2021 River fire.

Yesterday, I spoke with President Biden. I reminded him of his visit to Grizzly Flats and of the promise that he made. The President was receptive and seemed genuinely troubled that the residents of Grizzly Flats have not received relief. He said that he would get to the bottom of it, and I thank him for that.

The reality is that the President has the power with the stroke of a pen to grant this aid to the residents of Grizzly Flats. In fact, just a few years ago, President Trump did precisely that, providing individual assistance to victims of another California fire, the Creek fire. So I am calling on President Biden to keep his word and to give victims of the Caldor fire the relief that they deserve.

Now, while we must remember the debt that is owed to the community of Grizzly Flats, we also need to reflect on how we got here. The fact is that these catastrophic wildfires that ravage California year after year are not inevitable. They are a direct result of failed policies and of neglect, and Grizzly Flats is a perfect example.

The United States Forest Service actually had a fire mitigation plan that was announced in 2013 that would create a 15,000-acre fuel reduction buffer east and south of Grizzly Flats. Now, although that project began in 2014 and was scheduled to be completed by 2020 before the fire, it became mired in delays, and by the time of the fire in 2021, only 14 percent of the work had been done.

By the way, the Forest Service exaggerated this. They overstated the amount of work that had been done. They claimed that it was twice that, and it took an investigation by Capital Public Radio to reveal the truth.

Wildfire experts believe that if the project had been completed on schedule, it could well have saved Grizzly Flats.

A key architect of the mitigation project, former El Dorado National

Forest District Director Duane Nelson, said that if the project had been completed, then there would have been a high probability that Grizzly Flats would not have burned in the Caldor fire. He continued that it could have meant survival.

So even though the damage was caused in part by Federal negligence, we still have not gotten Federal aid. That is what makes this such a bitter pill to swallow for my constituents, that it was neglect on the part of the Federal Government that led to the fire, and then after the fire, the promises of the Federal Government for relief have gone unfulfilled.

More broadly, as we do everything we can to get assistance to the community of Grizzly Flats, we need to do everything we can to assure that other communities don't suffer the same fate. This means taking the simple and scientifically backed steps that we know reduce the risk of wildfires: actively and responsibly managing Federal forests, clearing underbrush and dead trees that serve as ladder fuels, conducting controlled burns, and selectively harvesting mature trees for logging to ensure healthy forest density.

Those are just the beginning of the steps that we can take to make sure that this doesn't keep happening again and again. I am calling on all of us to work together across the aisle to take the steps to do the work that needs to be done.

In the meantime, I am calling on the President to please, today, tomorrow, as soon as he possibly can, with the stroke of a pen make good on his promise and give the residents of Grizzly Flats the relief they deserve.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend. California's Third District is well-represented as everyone can see.

Madam Speaker, as is also obvious by the sample of new Members that we presented here tonight from New York, Florida, California, and Texas, this is an extraordinary class of Republican Members who have joined our conference here in the Congress. We look forward to serving with them. These will be fateful days for our country, and there is much hard work ahead in the 118th Congress.

Madam Speaker, with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, January 26, 2023, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

RULES AND REPORTS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE CONGRES- SIONAL REVIEW ACT

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(d), executive communications [final rules] submitted to the House pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1) during the period of August 9, 2022, through January 3, 2023, shall be treated as though received on January 25, 2023. Original dates of transmittal, numberings, and referrals to committee of those executive communications remain as indicated in the Executive Communication section of the relevant CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-133. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Arizona; Maricopa County; Power Plants [EPA-R09-OAR-2022-0107; FRL-9426-02-R9] received January 4, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-134. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Air Quality Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Arkansas; Control of Emissions From Existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfills [EPA-R06-OAR-2022-0546; FRL-10189-02-R6] received January 4, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-135. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; NC; Miscellaneous NSR Revisions and Updates; Updates to References to Appendix W Modeling Guideline [EPA-R04-OAR-2022-0782; FRL-10215-02-R4] received January 4, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-136. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; North Carolina; Minor Revisions to Nitrogen Oxides Rule [EPA-R04-OAR-2022-0433; FRL-10402-02-R4] received January 4, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-137. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; North Carolina; Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill Area Limited Maintenance Plan for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS [EPA-R04-OAR-2022-0265; FRL-9781-02-R4] received January 4, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-138. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Extract of *Caesalpinia Spinosa*; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0209; FRL-10495-01-OCSPF] received January 4, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A);

Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-139. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — NuScale Small Modular Reactor Design Certification [NRC-2017-0029] (RIN: 3150-AJ98) received January 13, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-140. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Hong Kong that was declared in Executive Order 13936 of July 14, 2020, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-141. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the situation in and in relation to Burma that was declared in Executive Order 14014 of February 10, 2021, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-142. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); Public Law 92-403, Sec. 1(a) (as amended by Public Law 108-458, Sec. 7121(b)); (118 Stat. 3807); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-143. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Memorandum of Justification for the drawdown of defense articles and services and military education and training under Sec. 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide immediate military assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-144. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Determination Under Section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA) to Provide Military Assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-145. A letter from the Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's Agency Financial Report for FY 2022, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-146. A letter from the Branch of Administrative Support Services, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reclassifying Fender's Blue Butterfly From Endangered to Threatened With a Section 4(d) Rule [Docket No.: FWS-R1-ES-2020-0082; FF09E22000 FXES1113090FEDR 223] (RIN: 1018-BD97) received January 23, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-147. A letter from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Amendments (RIN: 2900-AR79) received January 19, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-148. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment [FRL-5906-7-01-OECA] received January 4, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-149. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Colored Federal Airway Blue 26 (B-26); Fort Yukon, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0110; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AAL-7] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-150. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D Airspace; Fort Belvoir, VA [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1447; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AEA-35] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-151. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pratt and Whitney Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1306; Project Identifier AD-2022-01040-E; Amendment 39-22289; AD 2022-27-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-152. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd and Co KG (Type Certificate Previously Held by Rolls-Royce plc) Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1234; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00289-E; Amendment 39-22280; AD 2022-26-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-153. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1570; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01269-T; Amendment 39-22268; AD 2022-25-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-154. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1569; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01267-T; Amendment 39-22267; AD 2022-25-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-155. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.:

FAA-2022-1571; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01359-T; Amendment 39-22270; AD 2022-25-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-156. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1567; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00099-T; Amendment 39-22265; AD 2022-25-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-157. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Yabara Industria Aeronautica S.A.; Embraer S.A.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1568; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00910-T; Amendment 39-22266; AD 2022-25-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-158. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0978; Project Identifier AD-2022-00460-E; Amendment 39-22276; AD 2022-25-20] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-159. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1054; Project Identifier AD-2022-00278-T; Amendment 39-22255; AD 2022-24-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-160. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1061; Project Identifier AD-2022-00441-T; Amendment 39-22271; AD 2022-25-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-161. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0588; Project Identifier AD-2022-00114-T; Amendment 39-22249; AD 2022-24-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-162. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revised Definition of "Waters of the United States" [EPA-HQ-OW-2021-0602; FRL-6027.4-01-OW] (RIN: 2040-AG19) received January 4, 2023, pursuant to 5

U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-163. A letter from the Chairman, Office of Proceedings, Surface Transportation Board, transmitting the Board's final rule — Joint Petition for Rulemaking to Establish a Voluntary Arbitration Program for Small Rate Disputes [Docket No.: EP 765] received January 19, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-164. A letter from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Reimbursement of Emergent Suicide Care (RIN: 2900-AR50) received January 19, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-165. A letter from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modifications of Approval Requirements for Courses Designed to Prepare Individuals for Licensure or Certifications (RIN: 2900-AQ91) received January 19, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-166. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; GE Aviation Czech s.r.o. (Type Certificate Previously Held by WALTER Engines a.s., Walter a.s., and MOTORLET a.s.) Turbo-prop Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1239; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00301-E; Amendment 39-22279; AD 2022-26-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-167. A letter from the Branch Chief, Publications and Regulations, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's Procedures for determination letters and private letter rulings under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner, Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division, Employee Plans Rulings and Agreements, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. RESCIENTHALER (for himself, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. PERRY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. OGLES, and Mr. GUEST):

H.R. 494. A bill to prohibit Federal funding to EcoHealth Alliance, Inc., and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 495. A bill to amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to authorize assignment to States of Federal agency environmental review responsibilities, and for

other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. STEFANIK (for herself, Ms. FOXX, Mr. BANKS, Mrs. HINSON, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 496. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend Federal Pell Grant eligibility to certain short-term workforce programs; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. DUNCAN (for himself, Mrs.

RODGERS of Washington, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Ms. MACE, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CARL, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. LATTA, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. RESCIENTHALER, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. PERRY, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. BUCHSON, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BIGGS, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. MAST, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. NORMAN, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. BURGESS, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. GUEST, Mr. PALMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. FRY, Mr. OGLES, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mrs. LUNA, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, and Mr. FERGUSON):

H.R. 497. A bill to eliminate the COVID-19 vaccine mandate on health care providers furnishing items and services under certain Federal health care programs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. OBERNOLTE (for himself and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H.R. 498. A bill to amend title V of the Public Health Service Act to secure the suicide prevention lifeline from cybersecurity incidents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FALLON (for himself, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, and Mr. AMODEI):

H.R. 499. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require certain additional annual disclosures by public companies and exchange-traded funds investing in companies with ties to the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. WAGNER (for herself, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. STEIL, Mr. HUIZENGA, and Mr. GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 500. A bill to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to postpone the date of payment or satisfaction upon redemption of certain securities in the case of the financial exploitation of specified adults, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER (for herself and Mrs. DINGELL):

H.R. 501. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to require registrants to decline to fill certain suspicious orders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BANKS:

H.R. 502. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs repays members of the Armed Forces for certain contributions made by such members towards Post-9/11 Educational Assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BUCK:

H.R. 503. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to TikTok, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BURGESS (for himself and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 504. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to require an executive agency to submit information to any committee of the House of Representatives upon the request of 7 of the members of the committee, and to submit information to any committee of the Senate upon the request of 5 of the members of the committee, if the information relates to any matter under the jurisdiction of the committee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 505. A bill to provide for increases in the Federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. LIEU, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GALLEGOS, Ms. SALAZAR, and Ms. KAPTUR):

H.R. 506. A bill to designate the Russian-based mercenary Wagner Group as a foreign terrorist organization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CRAIG:

H.R. 507. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit former Members and elected officers of Congress from lobbying Congress at any time after leaving office, to prohibit the use of funds for official travel expenses of Members of Congress and legislative branch employees for airline accommodations other than coach-class, to reduce the pay of Members of the House of Representatives if a Speaker is not elected on the first day of a Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Ethics, Rules, and Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CRENSHAW (for himself, Mr. CUELLAR, and Mr. DUNCAN):

H.R. 508. A bill to provide procedures for appealing certain Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives rulings or determinations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DAVIDSON (for himself, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. ROY, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. GUEST, Mr. CAREY, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. TIFFANY, and Mr. BALDERSON):

H.R. 509. A bill to prevent class-based loan forgiveness for Federal student loans under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 without the explicit appropriation of funds

by Congress for such purpose; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 510. A bill to require the United States Governor of, and the United States Executive Director at, the International Monetary Fund to oppose an increase in the weight of the Chinese renminbi in the Special Drawing Rights basket of the Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 511. A bill to assist States in, and pay for the Federal share of the cost of, defraying the cost of pre-apprenticeships or related instruction associated with qualified apprenticeship programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia (for himself, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Mr. PERRY):

H.R. 512. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to prohibit the Election Assistance Commission from making payments under such Act to States and jurisdictions which fail to meet certain standards to protect the integrity and certainty of elections for Federal office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. JACKSON of Texas (for himself, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. NORMAN, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. HERN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. ISSA, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. STEWART, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. CLINE, Mr. COSTA, Mr. GUEST, Mr. CARL, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. ROSE, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. FALLON, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. FINSTAD, and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi):

H.R. 513. A bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to prevent harm and disruption to the United States agriculture industry by protecting against foreign influence over agriculture production and supply chains, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 514. A bill to establish a National Development Strategy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KUSTOFF (for himself, Mr. LAHOOD, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT):

H.R. 515. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on repurchase of corporate stock; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LIEU (for himself, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, and Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California):

H.R. 516. A bill to fight homelessness in the United States by authorizing a grant program within the Health Resources and Services Administration for housing programs that offer comprehensive services and intensive case management for homeless individuals and families; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. MACE (for herself, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. FALLON, Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Ms. FOX):

H.R. 517. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to furnish tailored information to expecting mothers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK (for himself, Mr. BENTZ, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. STAUBER, and Mr. JACKSON of Texas):

H.R. 518. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require publication on the internet of the basis for determinations that species are endangered species or threatened species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK (for himself and Mr. VALADAO):

H.R. 519. A bill to amend the Act of December 19, 1913 (38 Stat. 242), to expand access to the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and Lake Eleanor Basin areas for recreational purposes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK:

H.R. 520. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to provide that artificially propagated animals shall be treated the same under that Act as naturally propagated animals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MOONEY (for himself and Mr. LAMALFA):

H.R. 521. A bill to guarantee the right of individuals to receive Social Security benefits under title II of the Social Security Act in full with an accurate annual cost-of-living adjustment; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MOYLAN:

H.R. 522. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide or assist in providing a vehicle adapted for operation by disabled individuals to certain eligible persons, to pay expenses associated with the delivery of such vehicle, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself and Mr. BOWMAN):

H.R. 523. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the authorization of appropriations for homeless veterans reintegration programs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ROUZER:

H.R. 524. A bill to amend the Coastal Barrier Resources Act to create an exemption for certain shoreline borrow sites; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, and Mrs. TRAHAN):

H.R. 525. A bill to amend the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 to give the Department of Education the authority to award competitive grants to eligible entities to establish, expand, or support school-based mentoring programs to assist at-risk students in middle school and high school in developing cognitive and social-emotional skills to prepare them for success in high school, postsecondary education, and the workforce; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. TENNEY (for herself, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. POSEY, Mr. STEUBE, Mrs. LUNA, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Mr. MAST):

H.R. 526. A bill to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to prohibit the Secretary of Labor from issuing a temporary standard with respect to COVID-19 vaccination or testing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. TENNEY (for herself, Mr. STEUBE, and Mrs. LUNA):

H.R. 527. A bill to void existing non-compete agreements for any employee who is fired for not complying with an employer's COVID-19 vaccine mandate, and for other

purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. WAGNER (for herself, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 528. A bill to direct the Attorney General to study issues relating to human trafficking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WALTZ (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, Ms. SALAZAR, and Mr. MAST):

H.R. 529. A bill to extend the customs waters of the United States from 12 nautical miles to 24 nautical miles from the baselines of the United States, consistent with Presidential Proclamation 7219; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SALAZAR (for herself, Mr. SCALISE, Ms. FOXX, Mr. MASSIE, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. GOSAR, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. HUNT, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. ISSA, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. STEWART, Ms. TENNEY, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. HILL, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. CARL, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. OWENS, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. POSEY, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mrs. BICE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. FRY, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. OGLES, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. BURGESS, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. LUTTRELL, Mr. BUCK, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. SELF, Mr. BOST, and Mr. GUEST):

H. Con. Res. 9. Concurrent resolution denouncing the horrors of socialism; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. TIFFANY (for himself, Mr. PERRY, Mr. DONALDS, Mrs. STEEL, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. OGLES, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. OWENS, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. LATURNER, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Ms. MACE, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. MCCLINTOCK):

H. Con. Res. 10. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should resume normal diplomatic relations with Taiwan, negotiate a bilateral free trade agreement with Taiwan, and support Taiwan's membership in international organizations; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana:

H. Res. 56. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. AGUILAR:

H. Res. 57. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DONALDS:

H. Res. 58. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require the chair of a committee or subcommittee to recognize members at a meeting of the committee or subcommittee in the order in which they seek recognition; to the Committee on Rules.

By Ms. SCANLON (for herself, Mr. BACON, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. TLAI, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. BEATTY, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. OWENS, Ms. TITUS, Mr. CARSON, Ms. CHU, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. GRIMALVA, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. TRONE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. KILMER, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. CASE, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. CROW, and Mr. EVANS):

H. Res. 59. A resolution recognizing January 2023 as "National Mentoring Month"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. RESCHENTHALER:

H.R. 494.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is: Providing oversight of federal funding for the EcoHealth Alliance.

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 495.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 18 (relating to power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 496.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8

The single subject of this legislation is: Federal student aid for postsecondary education

By Mr. DUNCAN:

H.R. 497.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

Single Subject Statement:

This legislation eliminates the COVID-19 Vaccine mandate on health care providers furnishing items and services under certain Federal health care programs.

By Mr. OBERNOLTE:

H.R. 498.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. FALLON:

H.R. 499.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

The Securities and Exchange Commission shall require Chinese-based companies listed on US exchanges to disclose information regarding their business operations.

By Mrs. WAGNER:

H.R. 500.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER:

H.R. 501.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BANKS:

H.R. 502.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

The single subject of this legislation is:

Veterans Affairs

By Mr. BUCK:

H.R. 503.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is: national security

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 504.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. COHEN

H.R. 505.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 506.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. CRAIG:

H.R. 507.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is: Government ethics.

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.R. 508.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Protect the Second Amendment by creating an appeals process to ATF rulings.

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 509.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is: Education

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 510.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

The United States' input regarding the special drawing rights at the International Monetary Fund.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 511.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 provides Congress with the power to "regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia:

H.R. 512.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Election Integrity

By Mr. JACKSON of Texas:

H.R. 513.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 514.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution gives Congress the power to make laws that are necessary and proper to carry out its enumerated powers.

By Mr. KUSTOFF:

H.R. 515.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article 1, Section 8, the Necessary and Proper Clause. Congress shall have power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers and all Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This legislation pertains to the excise tax on the repurchase of certain corporate stock.

By Mr. LIEU:

H.R. 516.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Financial Services (Housing)

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 517.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Requires the Department of Health and Human Services to disseminate information about family planning resources.

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK:

H.R. 518.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (the Property Clause)

The single subject of this legislation is:

Endangered Species Act reform.

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK:

H.R. 519.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

The single subject of this legislation is:

Uses of Hetch Hetchy reservoir.

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK:

H.R. 520.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Endangered Species Act reform.

By Mr. MOONEY:

H.R. 521.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Social Security

By Mr. MOYLAN:

H.R. 522.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Article one of the United States Constitution Congress has the power to enact this legislation.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To provide for the needs of veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 523.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Increase funding for Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program

By Mr. ROUZER:

H.R. 524.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII

The single subject of this legislation is:

To Amend the Coastal Barrier Resources Act to create an exemption for certain shoreline borrow sites.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 525.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 3 and 18.

The Congress shall have Power . . .

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof

By Ms. TENNEY:

H.R. 526.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Preventing OSHA from enacting COVID-19 vaccine mandate.

By Ms. TENNEY:

H.R. 527.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

Nullifying non-complete clauses for persons fired due to COVID-19 vaccine mandates

By Mrs. WAGNER:

H.R. 528.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

Thirteenth Amendment to the US Constitution

By Mr. WALTZ:

H.R. 529.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Trade

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 21: Mrs. CAMMACK, Ms. GRANGER, and Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 24: Mr. DONALDS, Mr. BURCHETT, and Mr. COLLINS.

H.R. 38: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.

H.R. 41: Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. MOONEY.

H.R. 45: Mr. BURCHETT.

H.R. 51: Ms. BALINT.

H.R. 53: Mr. KUSTOFF and Mr. MURPHY.

H.R. 82: Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. CHU, and Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 139: Mr. RESCIENTHALER.

H.R. 148: Mr. FRY.

H.R. 163: Mr. RUTHERFORD and Mr. MAST.

H.R. 173: Mr. CLINE.

H.R. 185: Mr. BUCK.

H.R. 190: Mr. CAREY.

H.R. 208: Ms. PINGREE and Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.

H.R. 223: Mr. JACKSON of Texas.

H.R. 233: Mr. BACON.

H.R. 239: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 243: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 246: Mr. MANN and Mr. LATURNER.

H.R. 247: Mr. LATURNER.

H.R. 263: Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 267: Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 279: Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 291: Mr. CISCOMANI.

H.R. 292: Ms. PELOSI, Mr. DUARTE, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. BARRAGÁN, and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 293: Ms. PINGREE, Ms. PORTER, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 330: Mrs. BOEBERT, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. CLINE, Mr. BOST, and Mr. MAST.

H.R. 336: Mr. CLINE.

H.R. 341: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 345: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.

H.R. 346: Mr. MAST.

H.R. 347: Mr. FINSTAD.

H.R. 353: Mr. EZELL, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. HUIZENGA, and Mr. GARBARINO.

H.R. 356: Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 361: Mr. CASE.

H.R. 362: Mr. CASE.

H.R. 371: Mr. BOST and Mr. ROY.

H.R. 372: Mr. BOST.

H.R. 374: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. BIGGS, and Mr. MILLS.

H.R. 381: Mr. FULCHER and Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 398: Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. CLINE, and Mrs. BOEBERT.

H.R. 400: Mr. THANEDAR.

H.R. 407: Mr. RUTHERFORD and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.

H.R. 413: Mr. GIMENEZ and Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 424: Mr. BERGMAN and Ms. LEE of Florida.

H.R. 427: Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. LATURNER, and Mr. ROY.

H.R. 431: Mr. LATURNER.

H.R. 435: Mr. BOST and Mr. MOONEY.

H.R. 436: Mr. MAST, Mr. BOST, and Mr. MOONEY.

H.R. 448: Mr. OWENS and Mr. ARMSTRONG.

H.R. 451: Ms. VAN DUYN and Mr. BACON.

H.R. 453: Mr. OGLES and Mr. BUCHANAN.

H.R. 461: Mr. CLINE, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. BOST, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. WALTZ, and Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 463: Mr. PERRY.

H.R. 467: Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. ARMSTRONG, and Mr. PENCE.

H.R. 484: Mr. MANN, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. OWENS, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. BOST.

H.R. 490: Mr. ALLRED.

H.J. Res. 7: Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. FALLON, Mr. RESCIENTHALER, and Mr. MOONEY.

H.J. Res. 8: Ms. FOXX.

H.J. Res. 10: Mr. ROUZER.

H.J. Res. 13: Mr. GREEN of Texas.
 H. Con. Res. 7: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. THANEDAR, and Mr. LANGWORTHY.
 H. Res. 42: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. GREEN of Texas.
 H. Res. 54: Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. HAYES, and Ms. BONAMICI.
 H. Res. 55: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Ms. SLOTKIN.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 212: Mr. TRONE.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: Ms. PLASKETT

AMENDMENT No. 43: Add to the end the following:

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON RAISING ENERGY PRICES.

This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall not take effect until the date on which the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with other Federal agencies as appropriate, submits to Congress a certification that implementation of this Act, and the amendments made by this Act, will not increase the average price of energy for American consumers.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: Mr. SOTO

AMENDMENT No. 44: Page 2, line 13, strike "date of enactment of this subsection" and insert "date this paragraph takes effect described in paragraph (4)".

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

"(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date on which the Secretary submits to Congress a certification that, in the opinion of the Secretary, the price of gasoline and diesel fuel will not increase in any Petroleum Administration for Defense District while the Secretary develops the plan described in such paragraph."

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: Ms. PORTER

AMENDMENT No. 45: Page 2, line 24, strike "limitation" and insert "limitations".

Page 3, strike lines 1 through 5 and insert the following:

"(2) LIMITATIONS.—

"(A) TOTAL INCREASE.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for a total increase in the percentage of Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production in excess of 10 percent.

"(B) FINANCIAL BENEFIT OR PARTICIPATION.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for the financial benefit or participation of any entity which is allowed any allowance for depletion which is determined under section 613 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: Mr. JACKSON

AMENDMENT No. 46: Page 2, line 11, after "(d)" insert "or if the Secretary determines that a situation exists in which a delay in executing a drawdown of petroleum products in the Reserve in order to comply with this paragraph will harm national security".

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: Ms. MACE

AMENDMENT No. 47: Add at the end the following:

SEC. 3. NO EFFECT ON CERTAIN WITHDRAWALS OF FEDERAL LANDS FROM MINERAL LEASING.

This Act, and any amendments made by this Act, shall not affect the Presidential memorandum titled "Presidential Memorandum -- Withdrawal of Certain Areas off the Atlantic Coast on the Outer Continental Shelf from Mineral Leasing" and dated December 20, 2016.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: Mr. BARR

AMENDMENT No. 48: Add at the end the following:

SEC. 3. TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF CERTAIN FINANCIAL REGULATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Any rule issued by a Federal financial regulator that has the effect of limiting access to financing for oil and gas companies shall have no force or effect until the date on which the Secretary of Energy reports to the Congress (and makes such report available to the public) that the amount of petroleum products in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve is equal to or greater than the amount contained in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve on the day before the relevant drawdown.

(b) FEDERAL FINANCIAL REGULATOR DEFINED.—In this section, the term "Federal financial regulator" means the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Financial Stability Oversight Council, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: Mr. CARBAJAL

AMENDMENT No. 49: Page 2, line 17, insert "and excluding lands within the boundaries of a national monument" after "Shelf".

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: Mrs. TORRES OF CALIFORNIA

AMENDMENT No. 50: Page 2, line 13, strike "date of enactment of this subsection" and insert "date this paragraph takes effect described in paragraph (4)".

Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

"(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date on which the Secretary certifies that the oil and gas leasing on Federal lands contemplated in the plan to be developed under paragraph (1) is necessary to replenish the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to the amount of petroleum products held by the Reserve on February 23, 2022."

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: Mr. KEATING

AMENDMENT No. 51: Page 3, strike lines 1 through 5 and insert the following:

"(2) LIMITATIONS.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not—

"(A) provide for a total increase in the percentage of Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production in excess of 10 percent; or

"(B) provide for any oil and gas lease sales of any area of the Outer Continental Shelf off the Atlantic coast."

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: Mr. PERRY

AMENDMENT No. 52: Page 2, beginning on line 9, amend paragraph (1) to read as follows:

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except in the case of a severe energy supply interruption described in subsection (d), the Secretary may not execute the first drawdown of petroleum products in the Reserve after the date of enactment of this subsection, whether through

sale, exchange, or loan, until the Secretary has—

"(A) developed a plan to increase the number of barrels of petroleum products produced on Federal lands (including submerged lands of the Outercontinental Shelf) under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Defense leased for oil and gas production by the same number of barrels of petroleum products in the Reserve that are to be drawn down in that first and subsequent drawdowns, subject to the limitation under paragraph (2); and

"(B) submitted to Congress a certification that the number of barrels of petroleum products to be produced pursuant to subparagraph (A) have been produced.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: Mr. GARCIA OF CALIFORNIA

AMENDMENT No. 53: Page 2, line 13, strike "date of enactment of this subsection" and insert "date this paragraph takes effect described in paragraph (4)".

Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

"(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date on which the Secretary submits to Congress a certification that any increase in the percentage of Federal lands (including submerged lands of the Outer Continental Shelf) leased for oil and gas production pursuant to the plan required by paragraph (1) will not result in an increase in greenhouse gas emissions."

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: Mr. PERRY

AMENDMENT No. 54: Page 2, beginning on line 9, amend paragraph (1) to read as follows:

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except in the case of a severe energy supply interruption described in subsection (d), the Secretary may not execute the first drawdown of petroleum products in the Reserve after the date of enactment of this subsection, whether through sale, exchange, or loan, until the Secretary has—

"(A) developed a plan to increase the number of barrels of petroleum products produced on Federal lands (including submerged lands of the Outercontinental Shelf) under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Defense leased for oil and gas production by the same number of barrels of petroleum products in the Reserve that are to be drawn down in that first and subsequent drawdowns, subject to the limitation under paragraph (2); and

"(B) submitted to Congress a certification that the number of barrels of petroleum products to be produced pursuant to subparagraph (A) have been produced.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: Mr. GRIJALVA

AMENDMENT No. 55: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

"(4) TRIBAL CONSULTATION.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall include a Tribal consultation plan with Tribal governments and the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Energy."

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: Mr. GRIJALVA

AMENDMENT No. 56: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, add the following:

“(4) COMMUNITY PROTECTIONS.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not include oil and gas leasing on any Federal land where oil and gas leasing would result in or exacerbate disproportionate burdens on communities of color, low-income communities, and Tribal and Indigenous communities.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. GRIJALVA

AMENDMENT No. 57: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, add the following:

“(4) EXCLUSION.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not include oil and gas leasing on any federal lands that are viable for renewable energy production.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. MAGAZINER

AMENDMENT No. 58: Page 2, line 13, strike “date of enactment of this subsection” and insert “date this paragraph takes effect described in paragraph (4)”.

Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall not take effect until the date on which the Secretary determines that implementation of paragraph (1) will not negatively affect consumers the homes of which are heated using heating oil or other petroleum-based fuels.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. MAGAZINER

AMENDMENT No. 59: Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as impacting the authority of the President or the Secretary of Energy to initiate a drawdown of petroleum products from the Reserve in order to lower gas prices.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. SCHOLTEN

AMENDMENT No. 60: Page 2, line 11, after “(d)” insert “or if the Secretary determines that a situation exists in which a delay in executing a drawdown of petroleum products in the Reserve in order to comply with this paragraph will increase gas prices”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. LIEU

AMENDMENT No. 61: Page 2, line 11, insert “and any drawdown that the Secretary determines will result in a net profit for the Federal Government” after “(d)”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. LIEU

AMENDMENT No. 62: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, add the following:

(4) MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not include oil and gas leasing in any tract located on the Outer Continental Shelf if oil and gas leasing of such tract would adversely impact any marine mammal.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. VASQUEZ

AMENDMENT No. 63: Page 2, line 13, strike “date of enactment of this subsection” and insert “effective date of this subsection”.

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act, and any amendments made by this Act, shall not take effect until the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, publishes a report on the number, location, and owner of all unused permits to drill for oil and gas on Federal land.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. VASQUEZ

AMENDMENT No. 64: Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. DOMESTIC OIL AND GAS FOR THE SPR.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Energy shall, to the greatest extent possible, acquire petroleum products for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve that are produced from sources located in the United States.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. HUFFMAN

AMENDMENT No. 65: Page 3, line 5, strike “percent.” and insert “percent, nor shall it include any tract of Federal land where oil and gas leasing would decrease land and water available for outdoor recreation.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. CASTEN

AMENDMENT No. 66: Page 2, line 20, strike “and gas”.

Page 2, line 24, strike “limitation” and insert “limitations”.

Page 3, strike lines 1 through 5, and insert the following:

“(2) LIMITATIONS.—

“(A) TOTAL INCREASE.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for a total increase in the percentage of Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil production in excess of 10 percent.

“(B) PARTICIPATION BY FOSSIL INDUSTRY ENTITIES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not allow for the participation of a fossil industry entity in oil production activities on Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil production as a result of such plan unless such fossil industry entity submits to the Secretary a plan for—

“(I) reducing the total global warming pollution of the fossil industry entity by 2030 by not less than 50 percent of the total global warming pollution of the fossil industry entity in calendar year 2022, without the use of offsets;

“(II) eliminating the total global warming pollution of the fossil industry entity by 2050, without the use of offsets; and

“(III) allowing, in any given calendar year, the release into the atmosphere of not more than 1 percent of the methane brought to the surface through such oil production activities.

“(ii) DEFINITIONS.—In this subparagraph:

“(I) FOSSIL INDUSTRY ENTITY.—The term ‘fossil industry entity’ means an entity or individual that engages in the production, purchase, or sale of oil or natural gas.

“(II) GLOBAL WARMING POLLUTION.—The term ‘global warming pollution’ includes each of the following:

“(aa) Any gas that is determined by the Secretary to trap heat in the atmosphere, contributing to an increase in heat waves, flooding, drought, sea level rise, storm intensity, disease, disruption of agricultural production, or ecosystem disruption.

“(bb) Carbon dioxide.

“(cc) Methane.

“(dd) Nitrous oxide.

“(ee) Sulfur hexafluoride.

“(ff) Any hydrofluorocarbon.

“(gg) Any perfluorocarbon.

“(hh) Nitrogen trifluoride.

“(ii) Any fully fluorinated linear, branched, or cyclic—

“(AA) alkane;

“(BB) ether;

“(CC) tertiary amine; or

“(DD) aminoether.

“(jj) Any perfluoropolyether.

“(kk) Any hydrofluoropolyether.

“(ll) Any other fluorocarbon, except for a fluorocarbon with a vapor pressure of less than 1 mm of Hg absolute at 25 degrees Celsius.

“(III) TOTAL GLOBAL WARMING POLLUTION.—The term ‘total global warming pollution’ means, with respect to a fossil industry entity, the aggregate amount by weight of global warming pollution released into the atmosphere in association with the production, processing, refinement, transportation, combustion, and use of oil or natural gas that is produced, purchased, or sold by the fossil industry entity.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. CASTEN

AMENDMENT No. 67: Page 2, line 20, strike “and gas”.

Page 3, strike lines 1 through 5, and insert the following:

“(2) LIMITATION.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for a total increase in the percentage of Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil production—

“(A) in excess of 10 percent; and

“(B) unless the Secretary determines that—

“(i) the amount of oil that the Secretary intends to draw down from the Reserve in the first and subsequent drawdowns described in paragraph (1) is greater than the amount of oil produced in the United States that is reasonably expected to be exported from the United States during the 6 month period following the date of the intended drawdown;

“(ii) the expected exports of oil produced in the United States during the 6 month period described in clause (i) cannot be curtailed by an amount that is greater than the quantity of oil planned to be released from the Reserve; and

“(iii) the curtailment of exports of oil by an amount that is greater than the quantity of oil planned to be released from the Reserve would not have a comparable or greater effect than the planned drawdown of the Reserve in—

“(I) ensuring the energy security of the United States;

“(II) maintaining the stability of the price in the United States of petroleum products, including gasoline and diesel fuel; or

“(III) the achievement of other objectives cited by the Secretary to justify the drawdown from the Reserve.

“(3) REPORT.—The Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representative and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on the data and analyses used in the determination of the Secretary under paragraph (2)(B) upon publication of the determination.

Page 3, line 6, redesignate paragraph (3) as paragraph (4).

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. CASTEN

AMENDMENT No. 68: Page 2, line 20, strike “and gas”.

Page 3, line 4, strike “and gas”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. BEYER

AMENDMENT No. 69: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“(4) EXCLUSION.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not include any tracts where oil or gas production would harass or take a North Atlantic Right Whale.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. ROSS

AMENDMENT NO. 70: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, add the following:

“(4) OFFSHORE EXCLUSIONS.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not include oil and gas leasing in any tract located in the Mid-Atlantic Planning Area.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. BLUNT ROCHESTER

AMENDMENT NO. 71: At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION WITH RESPECT TO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendment made by this Act, may be construed to controvert the fact that greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced by 50 to 52 percent below 2005 levels by 2030, and that net-zero greenhouse gas emissions must be achieved by 2050, if the United States is to satisfy its commitment under the Paris Agreement and avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. OCASIO-CORTEZ

AMENDMENT NO. 72: Page 3, line 2, strike “shall not provide” and insert “may not—”. Page 3, line 2, before “for a” insert the following:

“(A) provide

Page 3, line 5, strike the period at the end and insert “; and”.

Page 3, after line 5, insert the following:

“(B) include any Federal land that, if leased for oil and gas production, will increase net carbon emissions.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. OCASIO-CORTEZ

AMENDMENT NO. 73: Page 3, line 2, strike “shall not provide” and insert “may not—”. Page 3, line 2, before “for a total” insert the following:

“(A) provide

Page 3, line 5, strike the period at the end and insert “; and”.

Page 3, after line 5, insert the following:

“(B) include tracts of Federal land where oil and gas leasing would be inconsistent with the goals of the Paris Climate Accords.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. OCASIO-CORTEZ

AMENDMENT NO. 74: Page 3, line 2, strike “shall not provide” and insert “may not—”. Page 3, line 2, before “for a total” insert the following:

“(A) provide

Page 3, line 5, strike the period at the end and insert “; and”.

Page 3, after line 5, insert the following:

“(B) include the lease of any land for oil or gas production to a company that has, within the previous decade, purchased an equity security of the company that is listed on a national securities exchange.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

AMENDMENT NO. 75: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“(4) BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE EXCLUSION.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not include oil and gas leasing in any tract located within the Big Cypress National Preserve.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PAYNE

AMENDMENT NO. 76: At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION WITH RESPECT TO ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendment made by this Act, may be construed to con-

trovert the fact that communities of color and low-wealth communities face the greatest harms due to climate change and greenhouse gas emissions.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. NICKEL

AMENDMENT NO. 77: Page 2, line 11, after “(d)” insert “or if the Secretary determines that a situation exists in which a delay in executing a drawdown of petroleum products in the Reserve in order to comply with this paragraph will worsen inflation”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. ESCOBAR

AMENDMENT NO. 78: Page 2, line 24, strike “limitation” and insert “limitations”.

Page 3, strike lines 1 through 5, and insert the following:

“(2) LIMITATIONS.—

“(A) TOTAL INCREASE.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for a total increase in the percentage of Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production in excess of 10 percent.

“(B) IMPACT ON WATER QUALITY.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for any entity to engage in oil or gas production activities on Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production as a result of such plan unless such activities will not negatively impact water quality.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. PEREZ

AMENDMENT NO. 79: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“(4) COASTAL FISHERIES EXCLUSION.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for oil and gas leasing in any tract in the Washington/Oregon Planning Area if such oil and gas leasing would adversely impact coastal fisheries.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. TAKANO

AMENDMENT NO. 80: Page 3, line 9, strike the closed quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“(4) COMMENT PERIOD.—Before finalizing the plan required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide an opportunity for public comment on the plan for a period of at least 90 days.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. TAKANO

AMENDMENT NO. 81: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“(4) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the plan under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consider the number of inactive but approved Federal oil and gas leases and permits to drill issued before the date of enactment of this subsection.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. TAKANO

AMENDMENT NO. 82: Page 2, line 13, strike “date of enactment of this subsection” and insert “effective date of this subsection”.

Page 3, strike lines 1 through 5 and insert the following:

“(2) LIMITATIONS.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not—

“(A) provide for a total increase in the percentage of Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production in excess of 10 percent; or

“(B) provide for any increase in oil and gas drilling if that oil and gas drilling would impact deployment of renewable energy projects on Federal lands.”.

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act, and any amendments made by this Act, shall take effect on the date on which the Secretary of Energy certifies that increased oil and gas drilling on Federal lands will not impact deployment of renewable energy projects on Federal lands.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. SCANLON

AMENDMENT NO. 83: Page 2, beginning on line 9, amend paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except in the case of a severe energy supply interruption described in subsection (d), the Secretary may not execute the first drawdown of petroleum products in the Reserve after the date of enactment of this subsection, whether through sale, exchange, or loan, until the Secretary has developed a plan to increase the production and stockpile of renewable energy technologies that can produce the same or a similar amount of energy as the energy that would be produced by the petroleum products in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve that are to be drawn down in that first and subsequent drawdowns.

Page 3, beginning on line 1, strike paragraph (2).

Page 3, line 6, redesignate paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. LEE OF CALIFORNIA

AMENDMENT NO. 84: Page 2, line 13, strike “date of enactment of this subsection” and insert “date this paragraph takes effect described in paragraph (4)”.

Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date that the Secretary certifies that any increase in the percentage of Federal lands leased for oil and gas production pursuant to paragraph (1) would not perpetuate environmental injustice.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. GOTTHEIMER

AMENDMENT NO. 85: Page 3, strike lines 1 and 2 and insert the following:

“(2) LIMITATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for—

“(i) a total increase in

Page 3, line 5, strike “percent.” and insert “percent; or”.

Page 3, after line 5, insert the following:

“(ii) the financial benefit or participation of any entity that has a contractual relationship with, or is owned, controlled, or under the influence of, a foreign entity of concern.

“(B) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term ‘foreign entity of concern’ means—

“(i) the People’s Republic of China;

“(ii) the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea;

“(iii) the Russian Federation;

“(iv) the Islamic Republic of Iran; and

“(v) any other country the government of which is subject to sanctions imposed by the United States.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. GOTTHEIMER

AMENDMENT NO. 86: Page 3, beginning on line 6, amend paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Defense—

“(A) prepare the plan required by paragraph (1); and

“(B) ensure such plan will not result in the sale of petroleum products drawn down from the Reserve to Iran, China, North Korea, or Russia.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. CARTER OF LOUISIANA

AMENDMENT No. 87: Page 2, line 24, strike “limitation” and insert “limitations”.

Page 3, strike lines 1 through 5, and insert the following:

“(2) LIMITATIONS.—

“(A) TOTAL INCREASE.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for a total increase in the percentage of Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production in excess of 10 percent.

“(B) DEEPWATER HORIZON.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for any entity to engage in oil or gas production activities on Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production as a result of such plan unless the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, certifies that the environmental harms caused by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico have been completely remedied.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. SHERMAN

AMENDMENT No. 88: Page 3, line 9, strike the closed quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“(4) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply if the President produces a plan to limit the amount of oil and gas exported from the United States by the same percentage as the percentage of petroleum in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve that is drawn down in each drawdown that occurs after the date of enactment of this subsection.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. DEGETTE

AMENDMENT No. 89: Page 3, line 1, strike “LIMITATION” and insert “LIMITATIONS”.

Page 3, line 2, strike “shall not” and insert “shall—”.

Page 3, line 2, strike “provide for” and insert the following:

“(A) not provide for”.

Page 3, line 5, strike “percent.” and insert “percent; and”.

Page 3, after line 5, insert the following:

“(B) only allow for a lease or permit if accompanied by a certification to the Secretary that it would not excessively increase the sales price of any petroleum products during—

“(i) a severe energy supply interruption; or

“(ii) any period of decreased supply of petroleum products.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. CLYDE

AMENDMENT No. 90: Page 2, line 15, strike “a plan to” and insert “a plan—”.

Page 2, line 15, before “increase” insert the following:

“(A) to

Page 2, line 25, strike the period at the end and insert “; and”.

Page 2, after line 25, insert the following:

“(B) to narrow the qualifications of eligible bidders determined by the Secretary, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §6241, for all future sales, exchanges, or loans from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, to only include bidders that—(1) are based in the United States; and (2) will distribute petroleum products in the same quantities as purchased from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to United States end-consumers within 18-months of purchase.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. CLYDE

AMENDMENT No. 91: Page 2, line 15, insert “and submitted to Congress” after “developed”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. BOWMAN

AMENDMENT No. 92: Page 2, line 24, strike “limitation” and insert “limitations”.

Page 3, strike lines 1 and 2, and insert the following:

“(2) LIMITATIONS.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not—

“(A) provide for a total increase in

Page 3, line 5, strike “percent.” and insert “percent; or”.

Page 3 after line 5, insert the following:

“(B) authorize the participation, including in any lease auction that occurs pursuant to such plan, by any corporation or entity that the Secretary determines contributed to price-gouging in the oil and gas sector in 2022.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT No. 93: Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as impacting the authority of the President or the Secretary of Energy to initiate a drawdown of petroleum products from the Reserve in order to lower gas prices.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT No. 94: Page 3, strike lines 1 and 2 and insert the following:

“(2) LIMITATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for—

“(i) a total increase in

Page 3, line 5, strike “percent.” and insert “percent; or”.

Page 3, after line 5, insert the following:

“(ii) the financial benefit or participation of any entity that has a contractual relationship with, or is owned, controlled, or under the influence of, a foreign entity of concern.

“(B) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term ‘foreign entity of concern’ means—

“(i) the People’s Republic of China;

“(ii) the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea;

“(iii) the Russian Federation;

“(iv) the Islamic Republic of Iran; and

“(v) any other country the government of which is subject to sanctions imposed by the United States.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT No. 95: Page 2, strike lines 1 through 3 and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Buy Low and Sell High Act”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Compensatory Production Increase Plan.

TITLE I—PETROLEUM RESERVES

Sec. 101. Economic Petroleum Reserve.

Sec. 102. Establishing Strategic Refined Petroleum Product Reserves.

Sec. 103. Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve.

Sec. 104. SPR Petroleum Account.

Sec. 105. Prohibition on certain exports.

Sec. 106. Strategic Petroleum Reserve reforms.

Sec. 107. Strategic Petroleum Reserve drawdown and sale.

Sec. 108. DOE study and plan for delivery of fuel during pipeline disruptions.

TITLE II—FUEL DEMAND

Sec. 201. State energy transportation plans.

Sec. 202. Transportation electrification.

Sec. 203. Federal fleets.

TITLE III—FUEL SUPPLY

Sec. 301. Assistance for Western Hemisphere refineries.

Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

TITLE I—PETROLEUM RESERVES

SEC. 101. ECONOMIC PETROLEUM RESERVE.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Section 154 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6234) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) **ECONOMIC PETROLEUM RESERVE.**—

“(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—In carrying out subsection (b), the Secretary shall establish and maintain within the Strategic Petroleum Reserve an Economic Petroleum Reserve of up to 350,000,000 barrels of crude oil.

“(2) **SOURCE.**—The Economic Petroleum Reserve shall consist of—

“(A) 90,000,000 barrels of crude oil that are stored in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve on the date of enactment of this subsection, less any amounts drawn down and sold under section 161(1) after such date; and

“(B) any crude oil purchased under section 160(i).”.

(b) **PURCHASES.**—Section 160 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6240) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(i) **PURCHASE OF CRUDE OIL FOR ECONOMIC PETROLEUM RESERVE.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—For purposes of section 154(g), the Secretary may acquire crude oil under this section only by purchase from domestic producers for a contract price of not more than \$60 per barrel, in accordance with this subsection.

“(2) **IMMEDIATE DELIVERY.**—The Secretary may enter into a contract under paragraph (1) at any time for immediate delivery of crude oil.

“(3) **FUTURE DELIVERY.**—

“(A) **AUTHORIZED PERIOD.**—During the period that begins on the date of enactment of this subsection and ends on December 31, 2024, the Secretary may enter into a contract under paragraph (1) for delivery of crude oil to occur during the period that begins on January 1, 2025, and ends on December 31, 2027.

“(B) **PRIORITY.**—In carrying out subparagraph (A), to the extent there are multiple offers for contracts on equivalent terms, the Secretary shall give priority to contracts for crude oil produced by wells, including drilled but uncompleted wells, that are minimizing greenhouse gas emissions from activities at such wells, as determined by the Secretary in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

“(4) **FUNDING.**—The Secretary may enter into a contract under paragraph (1) using

amounts deposited in the SPR Petroleum Account under section 167(c)—

“(A) that are attributable to covered receipts described in section 167(e)(3)(A); or

“(B) that were appropriated for such purpose pursuant to section 166.

“(5) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CONSIDERATIONS.—The objectives described in subsections (b)(4), (c)(2), and (c)(5) shall not apply to the acquisition of crude oil pursuant to a contract under paragraph (1).”

(c) DRAWDOWN AND SALE.—Section 161 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6241) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(1) DRAWDOWN AND SALE FROM ECONOMIC PETROLEUM RESERVE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (d)(1), the Secretary may draw down and sell crude oil from amounts in the Economic Petroleum Reserve established under section 154(g) at any time the front-month futures price of West Texas Intermediate crude oil has remained greater than \$90 per barrel for at least one week.

“(2) APPROPRIATIONS.—

“(A) STATE ENERGY TRANSPORTATION PLANS.—Notwithstanding section 167, there is appropriated to the Secretary of Energy to carry out section 367 an amount equal to \$9 for each barrel of crude oil sold under this subsection.

“(B) PLUG-IN ELECTRIC DRIVE VEHICLE PROGRAM.—Notwithstanding section 167, there is appropriated to the Secretary of Energy to carry out section 131(b) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17011) an amount equal to \$2 for each barrel of crude oil sold under this subsection.

“(C) LARGE-SCALE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAM.—Notwithstanding section 167, there is appropriated to the Secretary of Energy to carry out section 131(c) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17011) an amount equal to \$3 for each barrel of crude oil sold under this subsection.

“(D) ASSISTANCE FOR WESTERN HEMISPHERE REFINERIES.—Notwithstanding section 167, there is appropriated to the Secretary of Energy to carry out section 301 of the Buy Low and Sell High Act an amount equal to \$1 for each barrel of crude oil sold under this subsection.”

SEC. 102. ESTABLISHING STRATEGIC REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCT RESERVES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Title I of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6234) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“PART E—STRATEGIC REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCT RESERVES

“SEC. 191. DEFINITIONS.

“In this part:

“(1) DISTRICT.—The term ‘district’ means, as designated by the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration—

“(A) a Petroleum Administration for Defense District; or

“(B) a sub-district of a Petroleum Administration for Defense District.

“(2) NETWORK.—The term ‘network’ means the network of Strategic Refined Petroleum Product Reserves established under this part.

“(3) RESERVE.—The term ‘Reserve’ means a Strategic Refined Petroleum Product Reserve established under this part.

“SEC. 192. ESTABLISHMENT.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Secretary shall establish, maintain, and operate a national network of Strategic Refined Petroleum Product Reserves.

“(b) LOCATIONS.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall establish, maintain, and operate at least one Reserve in each district.

“(c) CAPACITY.—Each Reserve shall have the capacity to contain at least 4,000,000 barrels of gasoline and 2,000,000 barrels of diesel fuel, and the network shall have the capacity to contain up to 250,000,000 barrels of gasoline and diesel fuel.

“(d) RELATIONSHIP TO SPR AND NORTHEAST HOME HEATING OIL RESERVE.—A Reserve established under this part is not a component of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve established under part B of this title or the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve established under part D of this title.

“SEC. 193. AUTHORITY.

“To the extent necessary or appropriate to carry out this part, the Secretary may—

“(1) purchase, contract for, lease, or otherwise acquire, in whole or in part, storage and related facilities, and storage services;

“(2) use, lease, maintain, sell, or otherwise dispose of storage and related facilities acquired under this part;

“(3) acquire by purchase, exchange (including exchange of petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve or received as royalty from Federal lands), lease, or otherwise, gasoline or diesel fuel for storage in a Reserve;

“(4) store gasoline or diesel fuel in facilities not owned by the United States; and

“(5) sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of gasoline or diesel fuel from a Reserve established under this part, including to maintain the quality or quantity of the gasoline or diesel fuel in a Reserve or to maintain the operational capability of a Reserve.

“SEC. 194. CONDITIONS FOR RELEASE.

“(a) GASOLINE RELEASE.—The Secretary may sell gasoline from a Reserve only upon a finding by the President that there is a severe gasoline supply interruption within the district in which the Reserve is located. Such a finding may be made only if the President determines that—

“(1) a dislocation in the gasoline market has resulted from such interruption; or

“(2) a circumstance, other than that described in paragraph (1), exists that constitutes a regional gasoline supply shortage of significant scope and duration and that action taken under this section would assist directly and significantly in reducing the adverse impact of such shortage.

“(b) DIESEL RELEASE.—The Secretary may sell diesel fuel from a Reserve only upon a finding by the President that there is a severe diesel fuel supply interruption within the district in which the Reserve is located. Such a finding may be made only if the President determines that—

“(1) a dislocation in the diesel fuel market has resulted from such interruption; or

“(2) a circumstance, other than that described in paragraph (1), exists that constitutes a regional diesel fuel supply shortage of significant scope and duration and that action taken under this section would assist directly and significantly in reducing the adverse impact of such shortage.

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) the term ‘covered entity’ means—

“(A) the People’s Republic of China;

“(B) the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea;

“(C) the Russian Federation;

“(D) the Islamic Republic of Iran;

“(E) any other country the government of which is subject to sanctions imposed by the United States; and

“(F) any entity owned, controlled, or influenced by—

“(i) a country referred to in any of subparagraphs (A) through (F); or

“(ii) the Chinese Communist Party;

“(2) a ‘dislocation in the gasoline market’ shall be deemed to occur only when—

“(A) the price differential between crude oil and finished gasoline, as reflected in an industry daily publication, increases by more than 50 percent over its 10-year rolling average, and continues for 7 consecutive days; and

“(B) the price differential continues to increase during the most recent week for which price information is available; and

“(3) a ‘dislocation in the diesel fuel market’ shall be deemed to occur only when—

“(A) the price differential between crude oil and diesel fuel, as reflected in an industry daily publication, increases by more than 50 percent over its 10-year rolling average, and continues for 7 consecutive days; and

“(B) the price differential continues to increase during the most recent week for which price information is available.

“(d) CONTINUING EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall conduct a continuing evaluation of the price data supplied by the Energy Information Administration and data on gasoline and diesel fuel prices from published sources.

“(e) RELEASE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS.—After consultation with the gasoline, diesel fuel, and crude oil refining industries, the Secretary shall determine procedures governing the release of gasoline and diesel fuel from a Reserve. The procedures shall provide that—

“(1) the Secretary may—

“(A) sell gasoline or diesel fuel from a Reserve through a competitive process; or

“(B) enter into exchange agreements for gasoline or diesel fuel that results in the Secretary receiving a greater volume of gasoline or diesel fuel as repayment than the volume provided to the acquirer;

“(2) in all such sales or exchanges, the Secretary shall receive revenue or its equivalent in gasoline or diesel fuel that provides the Department with fair market value;

“(3) the Secretary shall only sell or dispose of the gasoline or diesel fuel in the Reserve to entities customarily engaged in the sale and distribution of gasoline or diesel fuel; and

“(4) the Secretary shall prohibit the sale or export of gasoline or diesel fuel released under this section to a covered entity, except that the Secretary may issue a waiver of such prohibition if the Secretary certifies that any export or sale authorized pursuant to the waiver is in the national security interests of the United States.

“(f) PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall transmit to the President and, if the President approves, to the Congress a plan describing—

“(1) the acquisition of storage and related facilities or storage services for the network, including the potential use of storage facilities not currently in use;

“(2) the acquisition of gasoline and diesel fuel for storage in the network;

“(3) the anticipated methods of disposition of gasoline and diesel fuel from the network;

“(4) the estimated costs of establishment, maintenance, and operation of the network;

“(5) efforts the Department will take to minimize any potential need for future drawdowns and ensure that distributors and importers are not discouraged from maintaining and increasing supplies to the United States; and

“(6) actions to ensure quality of the gasoline and diesel fuel in the network.

“SEC. 195. PROCEEDS FROM SALES.

“The Secretary of the Treasury shall deposit in the SPR Petroleum Account established in the Treasury under section 167 any receipts from the sale, exchange, or other disposition of gasoline or diesel fuel from the network.

“SEC. 196. RESTRICTIONS.

“(a) SOURCE.—No gasoline or diesel fuel produced at a refinery located outside of the United States may be stored in a Reserve.

“(b) TIMING.—The Secretary may not purchase gasoline or diesel fuel under this part until 2026.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 166 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6246) is amended by striking “and part D” and inserting “, part D, and part E”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended in the matter relating to title I by striking the items relating to the second part D (relating to Expiration) and the second section 181 and inserting the following:

“PART E—STRATEGIC REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCT RESERVES

“Sec. 191. Definitions.

“Sec. 192. Establishment.

“Sec. 193. Authority.

“Sec. 194. Conditions for release.

“Sec. 195. Proceeds from sales.

“Sec. 196. Restrictions.”.

SEC. 103. NORTHEAST HOME HEATING OIL RESERVE.

(a) STRENGTHENING THE NORTHEAST HOME HEATING OIL RESERVE.—Section 181(a) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6250) is amended by striking “2 million” and inserting “4 million”.

(b) CONDITIONS FOR RELEASE.—Section 183 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6250b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “DEFINITION” and inserting “DEFINITIONS”;

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively (and adjusting the margins accordingly);

(C) by striking “For purposes of this section a ‘dislocation in the heating oil market’” and inserting the following: “For purposes of this section—

“(1) the term ‘covered entity’ means—

“(A) the People’s Republic of China;

“(B) the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea;

“(C) the Russian Federation;

“(D) the Islamic Republic of Iran;

“(E) any other country the government of which is subject to sanctions imposed by the United States; and

“(F) any entity owned, controlled, or influenced by—

“(i) a country referred to in any of subparagraphs (A) through (F); or

“(ii) the Chinese Communist Party; and

“(2) a ‘dislocation in the heating oil market’”; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) the Secretary shall prohibit the sale or export of petroleum distillate released under this section to a covered entity, except that the Secretary may issue a waiver of such prohibition if the Secretary certifies that any export or sale authorized pursuant to the waiver is in the national security interests of the United States.”.

(c) PROCEEDS FROM SALES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 184 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6250c) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 184. PROCEEDS FROM SALES.

“The Secretary of the Treasury shall deposit in the SPR Petroleum Account established in the Treasury under section 167 any receipts from the sale, exchange, or other

disposition of petroleum distillate from the Reserve.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended by striking the item relating section 184 and inserting the following:

“184. Proceeds from sales.”.

(d) ELIMINATION OF LIMITATION.—Title III of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012 (division B of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112-74; 125 Stat. 869)), is amended, under the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve account, by striking “: Provided further, That notwithstanding section 181 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6250), for fiscal year 2012 and hereafter, the Reserve shall contain no more than 1 million barrels of petroleum distillate”.

SEC. 104. SPR PETROLEUM ACCOUNT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 167 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6247) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “the acquisition, transportation, and injection of petroleum products into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, for test sales of petroleum products from the Reserve, and for the drawdown, sale, and delivery of petroleum products from the Reserve” and inserting “covered activities”; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “the receipts to the United States from the sale of petroleum products in any drawdown and distribution of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve under section 161, including a drawdown and distribution carried out under subsection (g) of such section, or from the sale of petroleum products under section 160(f)” and inserting “covered receipts”; and

(2) in subsection (d), by striking “the sale of petroleum products in any drawdown and distribution of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve under section 161, including a drawdown and distribution carried out under subsection (g) of such section, and from the sale of petroleum products under section 160(f)” and inserting “covered sales”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) COVERED ACTIVITY.—The term ‘covered activity’ means—

“(A) the acquisition, transportation, and injection of petroleum products into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve;

“(B) the sale of petroleum products in any drawdown and distribution of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve under section 161, including a drawdown and distribution carried out under subsection (g) of such section;

“(C) the sale of petroleum products under section 160(f);

“(D) an activity under part D; and

“(E) an activity under part E.

“(2) COVERED SALE.—The term ‘covered sale’ means—

“(A) the sale of petroleum products in any drawdown and distribution of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve under section 161, including a drawdown and distribution carried out under subsection (g) of such section;

“(B) the sale of petroleum products under section 160(f);

“(C) the sale, exchange, or other disposition of petroleum distillate from the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve; and

“(D) the sale, exchange, or other disposition of gasoline or diesel fuel from a Strategic Refined Petroleum Product Reserve.

“(3) COVERED RECEIPTS.—The term ‘covered receipts’ means—

“(A) receipts to the United States from the sale of petroleum products in any drawdown and distribution of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve under section 161 (including a draw-

down and distribution carried out under subsection (g) of such section), less amounts equal to any amounts appropriated by subsection (1)(2) of such section;

“(B) receipts to the United States from the sale of petroleum products under section 160(f);

“(C) receipts to the United States from the sale, exchange, or other disposition of petroleum distillate from the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve; and

“(D) receipts to the United States from the sale, exchange, or other disposition of gasoline or diesel fuel from a Strategic Refined Petroleum Product Reserve.”.

(b) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—The assets and liabilities of the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve Account established in the Treasury under section 184 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6250c), as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, are hereby transferred to the SPR Petroleum Account established in the Treasury under section 167 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6247), and such Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve Account is hereby abolished.

SEC. 105. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN EXPORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended by inserting after section 163 (42 U.S.C. 6243) the following:

“SEC. 164. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN EXPORTS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall prohibit the export or sale of petroleum products drawn down from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, under any provision of law, to—

“(1) the People’s Republic of China;

“(2) the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea;

“(3) the Russian Federation;

“(4) the Islamic Republic of Iran;

“(5) any other country the government of which is subject to sanctions imposed by the United States; and

“(6) any entity owned, controlled, or influenced by—

“(A) a country referred to in any of paragraphs (1) through (5); or

“(B) the Chinese Communist Party.

“(b) WAIVER.—The Secretary may issue a waiver of the prohibition described in subsection (a) if the Secretary certifies that any export or sale authorized pursuant to the waiver is in the national security interests of the United States.

“(c) RULE.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of the Buy Low and Sell High Act, the Secretary shall issue a rule to carry out this section.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) DRAWDOWN AND SALE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS.—Section 161(a) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6241(a)) is amended by inserting “and section 164” before the period at the end.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 163 the following:

“Sec. 164. Prohibition on certain exports.”.

SEC. 106. STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE REFORMS.

(a) USE OF UNDERUTILIZED STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE FACILITIES.—Section 168 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6247a) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 168. USE OF UNDERUTILIZED FACILITIES.

“(a) AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, the Secretary may establish and carry out a program to lease underutilized Strategic Petroleum Reserve storage facilities and related facilities

to the private sector, or a foreign government or its representative. Petroleum products stored under this section are not part of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

“(b) PROTECTION OF FACILITIES.—Any lease entered into under the program established under subsection (a) shall contain provisions providing for fees to fully compensate the United States for all related costs of storage and removals of petroleum products (including the proportionate cost of replacement facilities necessitated as a result of any withdrawals) incurred by the United States as a result of such lease.

“(c) ACCESS BY THE UNITED STATES.—The Secretary shall ensure that leasing of facilities under the program established under subsection (a) does not impair the ability of the United States to withdraw, distribute, or sell petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in response to an energy emergency or to the obligations of the United States under the Agreement on an International Energy Program.

“(d) NATIONAL SECURITY.—The Secretary shall ensure that leasing of facilities under the program established under subsection (a) to a foreign government or its representative will not impair national security.

“(e) DEPOSITS OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), amounts received through the leasing of facilities under the program established under subsection (a) shall be deposited in the SPR Petroleum Account established in the Treasury under section 167 during the fiscal year in which such amounts are received.

“(2) COSTS.—The Secretary may use for costs described in subsection (b) (other than costs described in subsection (f)), without further appropriation, amounts received through the leasing of facilities under the program established under subsection (a).

“(f) PREPARATION OF FACILITIES.—The Secretary shall only use amounts available in the Energy Security and Infrastructure Modernization Fund established by section 404 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 for costs described in subsection (b) of this section that relate to addition of facilities or changes to facilities or facility operations necessary to lease such facilities, including costs related to acquisition of land, acquisition of ancillary facilities and equipment, and site development, and other necessary costs related to capital improvement.”.

(b) PILOT PROGRAM TO LEASE STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Part B of title I of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6231 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 170. PILOT PROGRAM TO LEASE STORAGE AND RELATED FACILITIES.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—In carrying out section 168 and not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish and carry out a pilot program to make available for lease—

“(1) capacity for storage of up to 200,000,000 barrels of petroleum products at Strategic Petroleum Reserve storage facilities; and

“(2) related facilities.

“(b) CONTENTS.—In carrying out the pilot program established under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

“(1) identify appropriate Strategic Petroleum Reserve storage facilities and related facilities to lease, in order to make maximum use of such facilities;

“(2) identify and implement any changes to facilities or facility operations necessary to so lease such facilities, including any such changes necessary to ensure the long-term structural viability and use of the facilities for purposes of this part and part C;

“(3) make such facilities available for lease; and

“(4) identify environmental effects, including benefits, of leasing storage facilities and related facilities.

“(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the status of the pilot program established under subsection (a).”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended by adding after the item relating to section 169 the following:

“Sec. 170. Pilot program to lease storage and related facilities.”.

SEC. 107. STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE DRAWDOWN AND SALE.

(a) RECONCILIATION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018.—Section 20003(a) of Public Law 115-97 (131 Stat. 2237) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “during the period of fiscal years 2026 through 2027” and inserting “by the end of fiscal year 2027”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) TIMING.—In determining the timing of each draw down and sale from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve under this section, to the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall maximize the financial return to the United States taxpayers.”.

(b) AMERICA'S WATER INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 2018.—Section 3009(a) of America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-270; 132 Stat. 3870) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “during” and inserting “by the end of”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) TIMING.—In determining the timing of each draw down and sale from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve under this section, to the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall maximize the financial return to the United States taxpayers.”.

(c) INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT.—Section 90002(a) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58; 135 Stat. 1342) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “during the period of fiscal years 2028 through 2031” and inserting “by the end of fiscal year 2032”; and

(2) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) TIMING.—In determining the timing of each draw down and sale from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve under this section, to the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall maximize the financial return to the United States taxpayers.”.

SEC. 108. DOE STUDY AND PLAN FOR DELIVERY OF FUEL DURING PIPELINE DISRUPTIONS.

Not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall—

(1) conduct a study on how the Department of Energy could deliver products sold from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, a Strategic Refined Petroleum Product Reserve, or the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve in the event of an attack or disruption that renders pipelines to deliver such products unusable; and

(2) submit to Congress a plan, based on the results of such study, to carry out such delivery.

TITLE II—FUEL DEMAND

SEC. 201. STATE ENERGY TRANSPORTATION PLANS.

(a) STATE ENERGY TRANSPORTATION PLANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Part D of title III of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6321 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 367. STATE ENERGY TRANSPORTATION PLANS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide financial assistance to a State to develop a State energy transportation plan, for inclusion in a State energy conservation plan under section 362(d), to promote the electrification of the transportation system, reduced consumption of fossil fuels, and improved air quality.

“(b) DEVELOPMENT.—A State developing a State energy transportation plan under this section shall carry out this activity through the State energy office that is responsible for developing the State energy conservation plan under section 362.

“(c) CONTENTS.—A State developing a State energy transportation plan under this section shall include in such plan a plan to—

“(1) deploy a network of electric vehicle supply equipment to ensure access to electricity for electric vehicles, including commercial vehicles, to an extent that such electric vehicles can travel throughout the State without running out of a charge;

“(2) promote modernization of the electric grid, including through the use of renewable energy sources to power the electric grid, to accommodate demand for power to operate electric vehicle supply equipment and to utilize energy storage capacity provided by electric vehicles, including commercial vehicles; and

“(3) implement other measures to reduce the consumption of petroleum-based fuels.

“(d) COORDINATION.—In developing a State energy transportation plan under this section, a State shall coordinate, as appropriate, with—

“(1) State regulatory authorities (as defined in section 3 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2602));

“(2) electric utilities;

“(3) regional transmission organizations or independent system operators;

“(4) private entities that provide electric vehicle charging services;

“(5) State transportation agencies, metropolitan planning organizations, and local governments;

“(6) electric vehicle manufacturers;

“(7) public and private entities that manage vehicle fleets; and

“(8) public and private entities that manage ports, airports, or other transportation hubs.

“(e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Upon request of the Governor of a State, the Secretary shall provide information and technical assistance in the development, implementation, or revision of a State energy transportation plan.

“(f) ELECTRIC VEHICLE SUPPLY EQUIPMENT DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘electric vehicle supply equipment’ means conductors, including ungrounded, grounded, and equipment grounding conductors, electric vehicle connectors, attachment plugs, and all other fittings, devices, power outlets, or apparatuses installed specifically for the purpose of delivering energy to an electric vehicle.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for part D of title III of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended by adding at the end the following:

“Sec. 367. State energy transportation plans.”.

(b) STATE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLANS.—Section 362(d) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6322(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (17), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (18) as paragraph (19); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (17) the following:

“(18) a State energy transportation plan developed in accordance with section 367; and”.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Section 365(f) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6325(f)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) **STATE ENERGY TRANSPORTATION PLANS.**—In addition to the amounts authorized under paragraph (1), for the purpose of carrying out section 367, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary.”.

SEC. 202. TRANSPORTATION ELECTRIFICATION.

Section 131 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17011) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(6)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “, including ground support equipment at ports” before the semicolon;

(B) in subparagraph (E), by inserting “and vehicles” before the semicolon;

(C) in subparagraph (H), by striking “and” at the end;

(D) in subparagraph (I)—

(i) by striking “battery chargers.”; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(J) installation of electric vehicle supply equipment for recharging plug-in electric drive vehicles, including such equipment that is accessible in rural and urban areas and in underserved or disadvantaged communities and such equipment for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, including at depots and in-route locations;

“(K) multi-use charging hubs used for multiple forms of transportation;

“(L) medium- and heavy-duty vehicle smart charging management and refueling;

“(M) battery recycling and secondary use, including for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles; and

“(N) sharing of best practices, and technical assistance provided by the Department to public utilities commissions and utilities, for medium- and heavy-duty vehicle electrification.”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (3)(A)(ii), by inserting “, components for such vehicles, and charging equipment for such vehicles” after “vehicles”; and

(B) in paragraph (6), by striking “\$90,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012” and inserting “such sums as may be necessary”;

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the header, by striking “NEAR-TERM” and inserting “LARGE-SCALE”; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking “\$95,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2013” and inserting “such sums as may be necessary”; and

(4) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e) and inserting after subsection (c) the following:

“(d) **PRIORITY.**—In providing grants under subsections (b) and (c), the Secretary shall give priority consideration to applications that contain a written assurance that all laborers and mechanics employed by contractors or subcontractors during construction, alteration, or repair that is financed, in whole or in part, by a grant provided under this section shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on similar construction in the locality, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with sections 3141 through 3144, 3146, and 3147 of title 40, United States Code (and the Secretary of Labor shall, with respect to the labor standards described in this clause, have the authority and functions set forth in Reorganization Plan Numbered 14 of 1950 (5

U.S.C. App.) and section 3145 of title 40, United States Code).”.

SEC. 203. FEDERAL FLEETS.

(a) **MINIMUM FEDERAL FLEET REQUIREMENT.**—Section 303 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13212) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

“(3) The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services, shall ensure that in acquiring medium- and heavy-duty vehicles for a Federal fleet, a Federal entity shall acquire zero-emission vehicles to the maximum extent feasible.”;

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) **PERCENTAGE REQUIREMENTS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—

“(A) **LIGHT-DUTY VEHICLES.**—Beginning in fiscal year 2026, 100 percent of the total number of light-duty vehicles acquired by a Federal entity for a Federal fleet shall be alternative fueled vehicles, of which—

“(i) at least 50 percent shall be zero-emission vehicles or plug-in hybrids in fiscal years 2026 through 2034;

“(ii) at least 75 percent shall be zero-emission vehicles or plug-in hybrids in fiscal years 2035 through 2049; and

“(iii) 100 percent shall be zero-emission vehicles in fiscal year 2050 and thereafter.

“(B) **MEDIUM- AND HEAVY-DUTY VEHICLES.**—The following percentages of the total number of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles acquired by a Federal entity for a Federal fleet shall be alternative fueled vehicles:

“(i) At least 20 percent in fiscal years 2026 through 2029.

“(ii) At least 30 percent in fiscal years 2030 through 2039.

“(iii) At least 40 percent in fiscal years 2040 through 2049.

“(iv) At least 50 percent in fiscal year 2050 and thereafter.

“(2) **EXCEPTION.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services where appropriate, may permit a Federal entity to acquire for a Federal fleet a smaller percentage than is required in paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, so long as the aggregate percentage acquired for each class of vehicle for all Federal fleets in the fiscal year is at least equal to the required percentage.

“(3) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection:

“(A) **FEDERAL FLEET.**—The term ‘Federal fleet’ means a fleet of vehicles that are centrally fueled or capable of being centrally fueled and are owned, operated, leased, or otherwise controlled by or assigned to any Federal executive department, military department, Government corporation, independent establishment, or executive agency, the United States Postal Service, the Congress, the courts of the United States, or the Executive Office of the President. Such term does not include—

“(i) motor vehicles held for lease or rental to the general public;

“(ii) motor vehicles used for motor vehicle manufacturer product evaluations or tests;

“(iii) law enforcement vehicles;

“(iv) emergency vehicles; or

“(v) motor vehicles acquired and used for military purposes that the Secretary of Defense has certified to the Secretary must be exempt for national security reasons.

“(B) **FLEET.**—The term ‘fleet’ means—

“(i) 20 or more light-duty vehicles, located in a metropolitan statistical area or consolidated metropolitan statistical area, as established by the Bureau of the Census, with a 1980 population of more than 250,000; or

“(ii) 10 or more medium- or heavy-duty vehicles, located at a Federal facility or located in a metropolitan statistical area or consolidated metropolitan statistical area,

as established by the Bureau of the Census, with a 1980 population of more than 250,000.”; and

(3) in subsection (f)(2)(B)—

(A) by striking “, either”; and

(B) in clause (i), by striking “or” and inserting “and”.

(b) **FEDERAL FLEET CONSERVATION REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 400FF(a) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6374e) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “18 months after the date of enactment of this section” and inserting “12 months after the date of enactment of the Buy Low and Sell High Act”; and

(B) by striking “2010” and inserting “2023”; and

(C) by striking “and increase alternative fuel consumption” and inserting “, increase alternative fuel consumption, and reduce vehicle greenhouse gas emissions”; and

(2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) **GOALS.**—The goals of the requirements under paragraph (1) are that each Federal agency shall—

“(A) reduce fleet-wide per-mile greenhouse gas emissions from agency fleet vehicles, relative to a baseline of emissions in 2015, by—

“(i) not less than 30 percent by the end of fiscal year 2026;

“(ii) not less than 50 percent by the end of fiscal year 2030; and

“(iii) 100 percent by the end of fiscal year 2050; and

“(B) increase the annual percentage of alternative fuel consumption by agency fleet vehicles as a proportion of total annual fuel consumption by Federal fleet vehicles, to achieve—

“(i) 25 percent of total annual fuel consumption that is alternative fuel by the end of fiscal year 2026;

“(ii) 50 percent of total annual fuel consumption that is alternative fuel by the end of fiscal year 2035; and

“(iii) at least 85 percent of total annual fuel consumption that is alternative fuel by the end of fiscal year 2050.”.

TITLE III—FUEL SUPPLY

SEC. 301. ASSISTANCE FOR WESTERN HEMISPHERE REFINERIES.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of Energy shall establish and carry out a program to increase the amount of crude oil refined in oil refineries located in covered countries by—

(1) developing, producing, or procuring resources, materials, or equipment that can be used at such oil refineries to increase the amount of crude oil refined at such oil refineries;

(2) providing to covered entities, under such terms and conditions as the Secretary of Energy determines appropriate, resources, materials, or equipment that can be used at such oil refineries to increase the amount of crude oil refined at such oil refineries;

(3) issuing grants, loans, or loan guarantees to covered entities, under such terms and conditions as the Secretary of Energy determines appropriate, to carry out projects in covered countries that can increase the amount of crude oil refined in such oil refineries; and

(4) providing technical assistance to covered entities, as the Secretary of Energy determines necessary to increase the amount of crude oil refined in such oil refineries.

(b) **PARTNERSHIPS.**—The Secretary of Energy may partner with other Federal agencies to carry out the program established under subsection (a).

(c) **AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS.**—In carrying out the program established under subsection (a), the Secretary of

Energy may enter into one or more agreements directly with third parties under such terms and conditions as the Secretary of Energy determines appropriate.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED COUNTRY.—The term “covered country” means a foreign country located in the Western Hemisphere, other than Venezuela, with respect to which the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Energy, determines that increased crude oil refining in that country would promote the national security and economic interests of the United States.

(2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered entity” means a covered country or a third party that owns or operates an oil refinery located in a covered country.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Energy to carry out this section \$90,000,000 for fiscal year 2024, to remain available until September 30, 2026.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT No. 96: Page 2, line 13, strike “date of enactment of this subsection” and insert “date this paragraph takes effect described in paragraph (4)”.

Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date that the Secretary certifies that any increase in the percentage of Federal lands leased for oil and gas production pursuant to paragraph (1) would not perpetuate environmental injustice.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT No. 97: Page 2, line 13, strike “date of enactment of this subsection” and insert “date this paragraph takes effect described in paragraph (4)”.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date on which the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, certifies that the required bonds, sureties, or other financial arrangements provide adequate incentives for oil and gas companies to meet their reclamation obligations under section 17(g) the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(g)).”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT No. 98: At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION WITH RESPECT TO THE TRUE CAUSES OF OIL AND GAS PRICE VOLATILITY.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendment made by this Act, may be construed to controvert the fact that Russia's unconscionable and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, at Vladimir Putin's direction, caused volatility in the global oil and natural gas markets that resulted in increased energy prices for consumers in the United States.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT No. 99: Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as—

“(A) an endorsement of greenhouse gas-emitting fuel sources; or

“(B) a denial of the effects of petroleum products on global greenhouse gas emissions.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT No. 100: At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION WITH RESPECT TO GAS PRICES.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendment made by this Act, may be construed to controvert the fact that, according to the Energy Information Administration, the per-gallon retail gasoline price in the first week of January 2023 was lower than it was in the first week of January 2022.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT No. 101: Page 2, strike line 8 and all that follows through page 3, line 9, and insert the following:

“(k) PLAN.—Except in the case of a severe energy supply interruption described in subsection (d), the Secretary may not execute the first drawdown of petroleum products in the Reserve after the date of enactment of this subsection, whether through sale, exchange, or loan, until the Secretary has developed a plan, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, to decrease the overall annual national demand for, and consumption of, petroleum products through increased usage of public transportation.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT No. 102: At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION WITH RESPECT TO CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTIONS.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendment made by this Act, may be construed to controvert the fact that the solutions to greenhouse gas-fueled climate change represent once-in-a-generation opportunities to rebuild the crumbling infrastructure of the United States, lower energy prices for countless Americans, and create millions of clean energy jobs.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT No. 103: At the end, insert the following:

SEC. 3. STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE REFORMS.

(a) USE OF UNDERUTILIZED STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE FACILITIES.—Section 168 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6247a) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 168. USE OF UNDERUTILIZED FACILITIES.

“(a) AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, the Secretary may establish and carry out a program to lease underutilized Strategic Petroleum Reserve storage facilities and related facilities to the private sector, or a foreign government or its representative. Petroleum products stored under this section are not part of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

“(b) PROTECTION OF FACILITIES.—Any lease entered into under the program established under subsection (a) shall contain provisions providing for fees to fully compensate the United States for all related costs of storage and removals of petroleum products (including the proportionate cost of replacement facilities necessitated as a result of any withdrawals) incurred by the United States as a result of such lease.

“(c) ACCESS BY THE UNITED STATES.—The Secretary shall ensure that leasing of facilities under the program established under subsection (a) does not impair the ability of the United States to withdraw, distribute, or sell petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in response to an energy emergency or to the obligations of the United States under the Agreement on an International Energy Program.

“(d) NATIONAL SECURITY.—The Secretary shall ensure that leasing of facilities under the program established under subsection (a)

to a foreign government or its representative will not impair national security.

“(e) DEPOSITS OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), amounts received through the leasing of facilities under the program established under subsection (a) shall be deposited in the SPR Petroleum Account established in the Treasury under section 167 during the fiscal year in which such amounts are received.

“(2) COSTS.—The Secretary may use for costs described in subsection (b) (other than costs described in subsection (f)), without further appropriation, amounts received through the leasing of facilities under the program established under subsection (a).

“(f) PREPARATION OF FACILITIES.—The Secretary shall only use amounts available in the Energy Security and Infrastructure Modernization Fund established by section 404 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 for costs described in subsection (b) of this section that relate to addition of facilities or changes to facilities or facility operations necessary to lease such facilities, including costs related to acquisition of land, acquisition of ancillary facilities and equipment, and site development, and other necessary costs related to capital improvement.”.

(b) PILOT PROGRAM TO LEASE STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Part B of title I of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6231 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 170. PILOT PROGRAM TO LEASE STORAGE AND RELATED FACILITIES.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—In carrying out section 168 and not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish and carry out a pilot program to make available for lease—

“(1) capacity for storage of up to 200,000,000 barrels of petroleum products at Strategic Petroleum Reserve storage facilities; and

“(2) related facilities.

“(b) CONTENTS.—In carrying out the pilot program established under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

“(1) identify appropriate Strategic Petroleum Reserve storage facilities and related facilities to lease, in order to make maximum use of such facilities;

“(2) identify and implement any changes to facilities or facility operations necessary to so lease such facilities, including any such changes necessary to ensure the long-term structural viability and use of the facilities for purposes of this part and part C;

“(3) make such facilities available for lease; and

“(4) identify environmental effects, including benefits, of leasing storage facilities and related facilities.

“(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the status of the pilot program established under subsection (a).”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended by adding after the item relating to section 169 the following:

“Sec. 170. Pilot program to lease storage and related facilities.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT No. 104: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, add the following:

“(4) OFFSHORE EXCLUSIONS.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not include oil and gas leasing in any tract located in the North Atlantic Planning Area.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 105: Page 2, line 24, strike "limitation" and insert "limitations".

Page 3, strike lines 1 through 5, and insert the following:

"(2) LIMITATIONS.—

"(A) TOTAL INCREASE.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for a total increase in the percentage of Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production in excess of 10 percent.

"(B) DEFICIENCIES IN FEDERAL OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for any entity to engage in oil or gas production activities on Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production as a result of such plan unless the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, certifies that the deficiencies in the Federal oil and gas leasing program identified in the Department of the Interior's Report on the Federal Oil and Gas Leasing Program (issued November 2021) have been fully remedied.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 106: At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION WITH RESPECT TO THE SQUANDERING OF FEDERAL LANDS.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendment made by this Act, may be construed to controvert the fact that the fossil fuel industry only produces oil and natural gas on approximately half of the lands leased by such industry from the Bureau of Land Management.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 107: At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION WITH RESPECT TO WINDFALL PROFITS OF OIL AND GAS COMPANIES.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendment made by this Act, may be construed to controvert the fact that oil and gas companies are using windfall profits to reward wealthy shareholders and executives with record stock buybacks and dividends.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 108: Page 2, strike line 8 and all that follows through page 3, line 9, and insert the following:

"(k) PLAN.—Except in the case of a severe energy supply interruption described in subsection (d), the Secretary may not execute the first drawdown of petroleum products in the Reserve after the date of enactment of this subsection, whether through sale, exchange, or loan, until the Secretary has developed a plan, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to decrease overall methane emissions from oil and gas production on Federal lands."

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 109: Page 2, line 13, strike "date of enactment of this subsection" and insert "date on which the Secretary certifies that Russia's invasion of Ukraine has ended".

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 110: At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION WITH RESPECT TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendment made by this Act, may be construed to con-

trovert the fact that climate change is real and is an existential threat to humanity.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 111: Page 2, line 24, strike "limitation" and insert "limitations".

Page 3, strike lines 1 through 5, and insert the following:

"(2) LIMITATIONS.—

"(A) TOTAL INCREASE.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for a total increase in the percentage of Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production in excess of 10 percent.

"(B) IMPACT ON AIR QUALITY.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for any entity to engage in oil or gas production activities on Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production as a result of such plan unless such activities will not negatively impact air quality.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 112: Page 2, line 13, strike "date of enactment of this subsection" and insert "date this paragraph takes effect described in paragraph (4)".

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

"(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date on which the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, issues a finding that the Federal lands that would be leased pursuant to the plan would produce a similar amount of oil during the first five consecutive years such Federal lands are leased as the amount that would be released from the associated drawdown."

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 113: At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION WITH RESPECT TO THE ROLE OF FEDERAL LANDS IN SOLVING THE CLIMATE CRISIS.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendment made by this Act, may be construed to controvert the fact that Federal lands can play a critical role in solving the climate crisis if the management of such lands prioritizes the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the responsible deployment of renewable energy, and the enhancement of natural carbon sequestration.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 114: At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION WITH RESPECT TO THE POTENTIAL COSTS OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendment made by this Act, may be construed to controvert the fact that, per the Office of Management and Budget, failing to take rapid action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions could cost the United States \$2 trillion per year in lost revenue by the year 2100, and would require tens of billions of dollars in additional Federal spending on crop insurance, coastal disaster relief, flood insurance, healthcare insurance, wildland fire suppression, and flooding at Federal facilities.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 115: At the end, insert the following:

SEC. 3. NORTHEAST HOME HEATING OIL RESERVE.

(a) STRENGTHENING THE NORTHEAST HOME HEATING OIL RESERVE.—Section 181(a) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6250(a)) is amended by striking "2 million" and inserting "4 million".

(b) CONDITIONS FOR RELEASE.—Section 183 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6250b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking "DEFINITION" and inserting "DEFINITIONS";

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively (and adjusting the margins accordingly);

(C) by striking "For purposes of this section a 'dislocation in the heating oil market'" and inserting the following: "For purposes of this section—

"(1) the term 'covered entity' means—

"(A) the People's Republic of China;

"(B) the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

"(C) the Russian Federation;

"(D) the Islamic Republic of Iran;

"(E) any other country the government of which is subject to sanctions imposed by the United States; and

"(F) any entity owned, controlled, or influenced by—

"(i) a country referred to in any of subparagraphs (A) through (F); or

"(ii) the Chinese Communist Party; and

"(2) a 'dislocation in the heating oil market'" and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking "and" and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting "and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(4) the Secretary shall prohibit the sale or export of petroleum distillate released under this section to a covered entity, except that the Secretary may issue a waiver of such prohibition if the Secretary certifies that any export or sale authorized pursuant to the waiver is in the national security interests of the United States."

(c) ELIMINATION OF LIMITATION.—Title III of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012 (division B of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112-74; 125 Stat. 869)), is amended, under the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve account, by striking "Provided further, That notwithstanding section 181 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6250), for fiscal year 2012 and hereafter, the Reserve shall contain no more than 1 million barrels of petroleum distillate".

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 116: Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

"(4) NONBINDING PLAN.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not be binding."

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 117: Page 2, line 13, strike "date of enactment of this subsection" and insert "date this paragraph takes effect described in paragraph (4)".

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

"(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date on which the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, certifies that the Federal Government would receive a fair return from the Federal lands leased for oil and gas production pursuant to the plan to be developed under paragraph (1)."

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 118: Page 2, line 13, strike "date of enactment of this subsection" and insert "date this paragraph takes effect described in paragraph (4)".

Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“(4) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—Paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date on which the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, certifies that any increase in the percentage of Federal lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Defense leased for oil and gas production pursuant to the plan required by paragraph (1) will have no impact on national security.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT No. 119: At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION WITH RESPECT TO GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES FOR THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendment made by this Act, may be construed to provide a further government subsidy for fossil fuel production in light of the oil and gas industry's recent, record profit margins.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT No. 120: Page 2, strike line 8 and all that follows through page 3, line 9, and insert the following:

“(k) **PLAN.**—Except in the case of a severe energy supply interruption described in subsection (d), the Secretary may not execute the first drawdown of petroleum products in the Reserve after the date of enactment of this subsection, whether through sale, exchange, or loan, until the Secretary has developed a plan, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to decrease the overall annual national demand for, and consumption of, petroleum products, including through increased use of biofuels.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT No. 121: Page 2, strike line 8 and all that follows through page 3, line 9, and insert the following:

“(k) **PLAN.**—Except in the case of a severe energy supply interruption described in subsection (d), the Secretary may not execute the first drawdown of petroleum products in the Reserve after the date of enactment of this subsection, whether through sale, exchange, or loan, until the Secretary has developed a plan, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, to decrease the overall annual national demand for, and consumption of, petroleum products through increased transportation electrification.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT No. 122: At the end, insert the following:

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN EXPORTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended by inserting after section 163 (42 U.S.C. 6243) the following:

“SEC. 164. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN EXPORTS.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall prohibit the export or sale of petroleum products drawn down from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, under any provision of law, to—

- “(1) the People's Republic of China;
 - “(2) the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;
 - “(3) the Russian Federation;
 - “(4) the Islamic Republic of Iran;
 - “(5) any other country the government of which is subject to sanctions imposed by the United States; and
 - “(6) any entity owned, controlled, or influenced by—
- “(A) a country referred to in any of paragraphs (1) through (5); or

“(B) the Chinese Communist Party.

“(b) **WAIVER.**—The Secretary may issue a waiver of the prohibition described in subsection (a) if the Secretary certifies that any export or sale authorized pursuant to the waiver is in the national security interests of the United States.

“(c) **RULE.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of the Strategic Production Response Act, the Secretary shall issue a rule to carry out this section.”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) **DRAWDOWN AND SALE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS.**—Section 161(a) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6241(a)) is amended by inserting “and section 164” before the period at the end.

(2) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents for the Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 163 the following:

“Sec. 164. Prohibition on certain exports.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT No. 123: Page 2, line 13, strike “date of enactment of this subsection” and insert “date this paragraph takes effect described in paragraph (4)”.

Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“(4) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—Paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date that the Secretary certifies that any increase in the percentage of Federal lands leased for oil and gas production pursuant to paragraph (1) would not harm cultural resources.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT No. 124: Page 2, line 24, strike “limitation” and insert “limitations”.

Page 3, strike lines 1 through 5, and insert the following:

“(2) **LIMITATIONS.**—

“(A) **TOTAL INCREASE.**—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for a total increase in the percentage of Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production in excess of 10 percent.

“(B) **BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.**—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for any entity to engage in oil or gas production activities on Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production as a result of such plan unless the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, certifies that—

- “(i) such entity adheres to best management practices; and
- “(ii) any oil and gas production activity carried out pursuant to any current lease of such entity is being carried out safely.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. QUIGLEY

AMENDMENT No. 125: Page 2, line 13, strike “date of enactment of this subsection” and insert “date on which the Secretary certifies that Russia's invasion of Ukraine has ended”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. GOOD OF VIRGINIA

AMENDMENT No. 126: Page 2, line 15, insert “that is approved by Congress” after “plan”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. BLUMENAUER

AMENDMENT No. 127: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“(4) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as a denial of the effects of petroleum products on glob-

al greenhouse gas emissions, including the effects on the ability to meet the nationally determined contribution of the United States under article 4 of the 2015 Paris Agreement.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. MACE

AMENDMENT No. 128: Add at the end the following:

SEC. 3. NO EFFECT ON EXISTING LEASING RESTRICTIONS.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, shall affect any statutory or regulatory restrictions in effect on the date of enactment of this Act (including any withdrawal of Federal land) that may prohibit oil and gas leasing within the area designated as the South Atlantic Planning Area.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. COHEN

AMENDMENT No. 129: Page 2, line 24, strike “limitation” and insert “limitations”.

Page 3, strike lines 1 through 5, and insert the following:

“(2) **LIMITATIONS.**—

“(A) **TOTAL INCREASE.**—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for a total increase in the percentage of Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production in excess of 10 percent.

“(B) **IMPACT ON AIR QUALITY.**—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for any entity to engage in oil or gas production activities on Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production as a result of such plan unless such activities will not negatively impact air quality.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. GARAMENDI

AMENDMENT No. 130: Add at the end the following new sections:

SEC. 3. NATIONAL POLICY ON STRATEGIC ENERGY ASSET EXPORT TRANSPORTATION.

(a) **LNG EXPORTS.**—

(1) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(A) Liquefied natural gas (LNG) is hazardous to national import and export terminals and ports when mishandled.

(B) LNG is a strategic national asset, the export of which should be used to preserve the United States tanker fleet and skilled mariner workforce that are essential to national security.

(C) For the safety and security of the United States, LNG should be exported on vessels documented under the laws of the United States.

(2) **REQUIREMENT.**—Section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) **TRANSPORTATION OF EXPORTS OF NATURAL GAS ON VESSELS DOCUMENTED UNDER LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES.**—

“(1) **CONDITION FOR APPROVAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (5), the Commission shall include in an order issued under subsection (a) that authorizes a person to export natural gas a condition that the person transport the natural gas on vessels that meet the requirements described in paragraph (2) (including vessels with respect to which a waiver is in place for the requirement under paragraph (2)(A)(i)(II)(bb) or the requirement under paragraph (2)(A)(ii)(IV), as applicable), so as to ensure the following:

“(A) A minimum of two percent of the natural gas that is exported by vessel is transported on such vessels in each of the 7 calendar years after the calendar year in which this subsection is enacted.

“(B) A minimum of three percent of the natural gas that is exported by vessel is transported on such vessels in each of the 8th

and 9th calendar years after the calendar year in which this subsection is enacted.

“(C) A minimum of four percent of the natural gas that is exported by vessel is transported on such vessels in each of the 10th and 11th calendar years after the calendar year in which this subsection is enacted.

“(D) A minimum of six percent of the natural gas that is exported by vessel is transported on such vessels in each of the 12th and 13th calendar years after the calendar year in which this subsection is enacted.

“(E) A minimum of seven percent of the natural gas that is exported by vessel is transported on such vessels in each of the 14th and 15th calendar years after the calendar year in which this subsection is enacted.

“(F) A minimum of nine percent of the natural gas that is exported by vessel is transported on such vessels in each of the 16th and 17th calendar years after the calendar year in which this subsection is enacted.

“(G) A minimum of eleven percent of the natural gas that is exported by vessel is transported on such vessels in each of the 18th and 19th calendar years after the calendar year in which this subsection is enacted.

“(H) A minimum of thirteen percent of the natural gas that is exported by vessel is transported on such vessels in each of the 20th and 21st calendar years after the calendar year in which this subsection is enacted.

“(I) A minimum of fifteen percent of the natural gas that is exported by vessel is transported on such vessels in—

“(i) the 22nd calendar year after the calendar year in which this subsection is enacted; and

“(ii) in each calendar year thereafter.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS FOR VESSELS.—A vessel meets the requirements described in this paragraph—

“(A) with respect to each of the 5 calendar years after the calendar year in which this subsection is enacted—

“(i) if—

“(I) the vessel is documented under the laws of the United States; and

“(II) with respect to any retrofit work necessary for the vessel to export natural gas—

“(aa) such work is done in a shipyard in the United States; and

“(bb) any component of the vessel listed in paragraph (3) that is installed during the course of such work is manufactured in the United States; or

“(ii) if—

“(I) the vessel is built in the United States; (II) the vessel is documented under the laws of the United States;

“(III) all major components of the hull or superstructure of the vessel are manufactured (including all manufacturing processes from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings for iron or steel products) in the United States; and

“(IV) the components of the vessel listed in paragraph (3) are manufactured in the United States; and

“(B) with respect to the 6th calendar year after the calendar year in which this subsection is enacted and each calendar year thereafter, if the vessel meets the requirements of subparagraph (A)(ii).

“(3) COMPONENTS.—The components of a vessel listed in this paragraph are the following components:

“(A) Air circuit breakers.

“(B) Welded shipboard anchor and mooring chain with a diameter of four inches or less.

“(C) Powered and non-powered valves in Federal Supply Classes 4810 and 4820 used in piping.

“(D) Machine tools in the Federal Supply Classes for metal-working machinery numbered 3405, 3408, 3410 through 3419, 3426, 3433, 3438, 3441 through 3443, 3445, 3446, 3448, 3449, 3460, and 3461.

“(E) Auxiliary equipment for shipboard services, including pumps.

“(F) Propulsion equipment, including engines, propulsion motors, reduction gears, and propellers.

“(G) Shipboard cranes.

“(H) Spreaders for shipboard cranes.

“(I) Rotating electrical equipment, including electrical alternators and motors.

“(J) Compressors, pumps, and heat exchangers used in managing and re-liquefying boil-off gas from liquefied natural gas.

“(4) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The Commission may waive the requirement under paragraph (2)(A)(i)(II)(bb) or paragraph (2)(A)(ii)(IV), as applicable, with respect to a component of a vessel if the Maritime Administrator determines that—

“(A) application of the requirement would cause a cost increase of more than 25 percent for such component or unreasonable delays to be incurred in building or retrofitting the vessel; or

“(B) such component is not manufactured in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities of a satisfactory quality.

“(5) EXCEPTION.—The Commission may not include in any order issued under subsection (a) authorizing a person to export natural gas to a nation with which there is in effect a free trade agreement requiring national treatment for trade in natural gas a condition described in paragraph (1), or a condition described in paragraph (7), if the United States Trade Representative certifies to the Commission, in writing, that such condition would violate obligations of the United States under such free trade agreement.

“(6) USE OF FEDERAL INFORMATION.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Commission—

“(A) shall utilize information made available by the Energy Information Administration, or by any other Federal agency or entity the Commission determines appropriate; and

“(B) may not utilize information made available by a private entity unless applicable information described in subparagraph (A) is not available.

“(7) OPPORTUNITIES FOR LICENSED AND UNLICENSED MARINERS.—Except as provided in paragraph (5), the Commission shall include in any order issued under subsection (a) that authorizes a person to export natural gas a condition that the person provide opportunities for United States licensed and unlicensed mariners to receive experience and training necessary to become credentialed in working on a vessel transporting natural gas.”.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3(c) of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b(c)) is amended by striking “or the exportation of natural gas” and inserting “or, subject to subsection (g), the exportation of natural gas”.

(b) CRUDE OIL.—Section 101 of title I of division O of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (42 U.S.C. 6212a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking “subsections (c) and (d)” and inserting “subsections (c), (d), and (e)”;

(2) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

“(e) TRANSPORTATION OF EXPORTS OF CRUDE OIL ON VESSELS DOCUMENTED UNDER LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES.—

“(1) CONDITION.—Except as provided in paragraph (5), as a condition to export crude oil, the President shall require the person ex-

porting the crude oil to transport the exports on vessels that meet the requirements described in paragraph (2) (including vessels with respect to which a waiver is in place for the requirement under paragraph (2)(A)(i)(II)(bb) or the requirement under paragraph (2)(A)(ii)(IV), as applicable), so as to ensure the following:

“(A) A minimum of three percent of crude oil exported by vessel is transported on such vessels in each of the 7 calendar years after the calendar year in which this subsection is enacted.

“(B) A minimum of six percent of crude oil exported by vessel is transported on such vessels in each of the 8th, 9th, and 10th calendar years after the calendar year in which this subsection is enacted.

“(C) A minimum of eight percent of crude oil exported by vessel is transported on such vessels in each of the 11th, 12th, and 13th calendar years after the calendar year in which this subsection is enacted.

“(D) A minimum of ten percent of crude oil exported by vessel is transported on such vessels—

“(i) in the 14th calendar year after the calendar year in which this subsection is enacted; and

“(ii) in each calendar year thereafter.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS FOR VESSELS.—A vessel meets the requirements described in this paragraph if—

“(A) with respect to each of the 4 calendar years after the calendar year in which this subsection is enacted—

“(i) if—

“(I) the vessel is documented under the laws of the United States; and

“(II) with respect to any retrofit work necessary for the vessel to export crude oil—

“(aa) such work is done in a shipyard in the United States; and

“(bb) any component of the vessel listed in paragraph (3) that is installed during the course of such work is manufactured in the United States; or

“(ii) if—

“(I) the vessel is built in the United States;

“(II) the vessel is documented under the laws of the United States;

“(III) all major components of the hull or superstructure of the vessel are manufactured (including all manufacturing processes from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings for iron or steel products) in the United States; and

“(IV) the components of the vessel listed in paragraph (3) are manufactured in the United States; and

“(B) with respect to the 5th calendar year after the calendar year in which this subsection is enacted and each calendar year thereafter, if the vessel meets the requirements of subparagraph (A)(ii).

“(3) COMPONENTS.—The components of a vessel listed in this paragraph are the following components:

“(A) Air circuit breakers.

“(B) Welded shipboard anchor and mooring chain with a diameter of four inches or less.

“(C) Powered and non-powered valves in Federal Supply Classes 4810 and 4820 used in piping.

“(D) Machine tools in the Federal Supply Classes for metal-working machinery numbered 3405, 3408, 3410 through 3419, 3426, 3433, 3438, 3441 through 3443, 3445, 3446, 3448, 3449, 3460, and 3461.

“(E) Auxiliary equipment for shipboard services, including pumps.

“(F) Propulsion equipment, including engines, propulsion motors, reduction gears, and propellers.

“(G) Shipboard cranes.

“(H) Spreaders for shipboard cranes.

“(I) Rotating electrical equipment, including electrical alternators and motors.

“(4) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The President may waive the requirement under paragraph (2)(A)(i)(II)(bb) or the requirement under paragraph (2)(A)(ii)(IV), as applicable, with respect to a component of a vessel if the Maritime Administrator determines that—

“(A) application of the requirement would cause a cost increase of more than 25 percent for such component or unreasonable delays to be incurred in building or retrofitting the vessel; or

“(B) such component is not manufactured in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities of a satisfactory quality.

“(5) EXCEPTION.—The President may not, under paragraph (1), condition the export of crude oil to a nation with which there is in effect a free trade agreement requiring national treatment for trade in crude oil if the United States Trade Representative certifies to the President, in writing, that such condition would violate obligations of the United States under such free trade agreement.

“(6) USE OF FEDERAL INFORMATION.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the President—

“(A) shall utilize information made available by the Energy Information Administration, or by any other Federal agency or entity the President determines appropriate; and

“(B) may not utilize information made available by a private entity unless applicable information described in subparagraph (A) is not available.

“(7) OPPORTUNITIES FOR LICENSED AND UNLICENSED MARINERS.—The Maritime Administrator shall ensure that each exporter of crude oil by vessel provides opportunities for United States licensed and unlicensed mariners to receive experience and training necessary to become credentialed in working on such vessels.”.

SEC. 4. ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION.

The Secretary of Energy, acting through the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, shall collect, and make readily available to the public on the Internet website of the Energy Information Administration, information on exports by vessel of natural gas and crude oil, including—

(1) forecasts for, and data on, such exports for—

(A) the calendar year after the calendar year in which this Act is enacted; and

(B) each calendar year thereafter; and

(2) forecasts for such exports for multi-year periods after the date of enactment of this Act, as determined appropriate by the Administrator.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. SCHNEIDER

AMENDMENT No. 131: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“(4) GREAT LAKES EXCLUSION.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not include oil and gas leasing in the Great Lakes.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. CARTER OF LOUISIANA

AMENDMENT No. 132: Page 3, line 9, strike the closed quotation marks and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“(4) REQUIREMENT.—The plan developed under paragraph (1) shall include a requirement that any entity entering into a contract relating to oil or gas production occurring on Federal lands leased pursuant to the plan may not provide for the participation of an entity that offers a health plan that does not provide coverage of screening and preventative services, including contraceptive services, to at least the extent and level as required under the essential health benefits

pursuant to section 1302 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. MACE

AMENDMENT No. 133: Add at the end the following:

SEC. 3. NO EFFECT ON EXISTING LEASING RESTRICTIONS.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, shall affect any statutory or regulatory restrictions in effect on the date of enactment of this Act (including any withdrawal of Federal land) that may prohibit oil and gas leasing within the area designated as the South Atlantic Planning Area.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. MACE

AMENDMENT No. 134: Add at the end the following:

SEC. 3. NO EFFECT ON EXISTING LEASING RESTRICTIONS.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, shall affect any statutory or regulatory restrictions in effect on the date of enactment of this Act (including any withdrawal of Federal land) that may prohibit oil and gas leasing within the area designated as the South Atlantic Planning Area.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. CICILLINE

AMENDMENT No. 135: Page 3, line 1, strike “LIMITATION” AND INSERT “LIMITATIONS”.

Page 3, line 2, strike “shall not” and insert “shall not—”.

Page 3, line 2, strike “provide for” and insert the following:

“(A) provide for”.

Page 3, line 5, strike “percent.” and insert “percent; and”.

Page 3, after line 5, insert the following:

“(B) provide for leasing for oil and gas production in any area of the outer Continental Shelf off the coast of the State of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, or New York.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. LARSON OF CONNECTICUT

AMENDMENT No. 136: Page 3, line 9, strike the closed quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“(4) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Secretary may execute a drawdown of petroleum products in the Reserve without developing the plan under paragraph (1) if the Energy Information Administration determines that executing such drawdown of petroleum products would lower gas prices or increase energy stability.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MRS. BOEBERT

AMENDMENT No. 137: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“(4) THOMPSON DIVIDE.—As part of the plan developed under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall identify areas to lease within the approximately 224,793.73 acres, including approximately 200,518.28 acres of National Forest System lands, approximately 15,464.99 acres of public lands, and approximately 8,810.46 acres of reserved Federal mineral interest within the Thompson Divide area in Colorado.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MRS. BOEBERT

AMENDMENT No. 138: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“(4) MINERAL WITHDRAWALS.—As part of the plan developed under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall include information regarding the effects of administrative mineral withdrawals, including the proposed withdrawal titled ‘Notice of Proposed Withdrawal and Public Meeting, Thompson Divide Area, Colorado’ and published October 17, 2022, on increasing the total percentage of Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. OMAR

AMENDMENT No. 139: Page 2, line 24, strike “limitation” and insert “limitations”.

Page 3, beginning on line 1, amend paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) LIMITATIONS.—The plan required by paragraph (1) may not—

“(A) provide for a total increase in the percentage of Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production in excess of 10 percent; or

“(B) provide for the participation of a company that—

“(i) holds an oil or gas lease issued under any of the mineral leasing laws; and

“(ii) provided executive level employees of such company with a bonus using profits made from holding such lease in the 10 years preceding the date of enactment of this subsection.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. OMAR

AMENDMENT No. 140: Page 3, line 8, after “with” insert “Native Nations, Tribes, Indigenous communities,”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. OMAR

AMENDMENT No. 141: Page 2, line 13, strike “date of enactment of this subsection” and insert “date this subsection takes effect described in paragraph (4)”.

Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, add the following:

“(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date on which the Secretary submits to Congress a report containing a quantification of the economic effects on the national debt of the implementation of this subsection.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. OMAR

AMENDMENT No. 142: Add at the end the following:

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act and the amendment made by this Act shall not take effect until the date on which the Secretary of Energy submits to Congress a report quantifying the potential economic costs of any subsidies that may be provided to entities engaged in oil and gas leasing pursuant to the amendment made by this Act.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. LaLOTTA

AMENDMENT No. 143: Add at the end the following:

SEC. 3. NO EFFECT ON EXISTING LEASING RESTRICTIONS.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, shall affect any statutory or regulatory restrictions in effect on the date of enactment of this Act (including any withdrawal of Federal land) that may prohibit oil and gas leasing within the area designated as the North Atlantic Planning Area.